

Front Road and King Street West Construction Update

The water and sewer project extending from Front Road at Sand Bay Lane (on the west side of the Front Road bridge) to King Street West at Country Club Drive has run into roadblocks. This has extended the length of time to complete the work and has resulted in commuter and resident concerns not least of which involve safety. The lengthy delays in construction of the Utilities Kingston work have also caused further delays in the completion of “Route 6” in the Active Transportation Implementation Plan – the major cycle route and pedestrian facility connecting Lakeside with Portsmouth and downtown.

Utilities Kingston hosted a public information session about the project on September 26, 2022. There, Global News heard from Utilities Kingston and community members including Carla Teixeira, a cyclist and KCAT Cycling Committee Chairperson: “Cars will still just *zoom* past you in a *very* small space; there’s potholes, there’s debris, there’s a concrete barrier to your right and a car to your left, there’s not much place for you to go.”

The project is now on-hold and Utilities Kingston is remediating Front Road and King Street West back to four lanes of traffic. Utilities Kingston will consider feedback it has received before the project is expected to restart in the spring. It acknowledges on its website that: “Cyclists and pedestrians have been especially impacted, and we apologize for the inconvenience.”

Safe, efficient traffic flow can be facilitated in many ways in and around road construction sites. Challenges are limited space used by multiple modes of travel (walking, cycling, driving) and through-ways that may not be intuitive.

Utilities Kingston has important safety information on its website specifically about the Front Road/King Street West project that may apply to other municipal road construction sites as well. It includes direction about the ‘shared lane’, ‘no passing zone’, speed, and leaving a safe distance behind cyclists.

Safe traffic flow is also facilitated in and around road construction sites. Examples at Front Road/King Street West include signage directing motorists and cyclists to travel in single file and signage to indicate a lower speed limit.

Other ways to facilitate safe travel by all road users in and around construction sites are to:

- Ensure that existing pathways in the area are well-maintained so that potential users have alternate routes (e.g., bike pathway is free of debris including winter sand and salt build-up)
- Install clear, unobstructed signage ahead of the construction site in both directions informing road users about the construction site ahead and direction to share the road and follow the speed limit.
- Clearly identify through as many signs and/or sharrows as needed where users are required to travel in single file.

- Install traffic-calming measures as indicated for the construction period and long-term. Many motorists who use Front Road for example, regularly travel well above the speed limit.

For more information please go to <https://utilitieskingston.com/News/Article/updates-on-water-sewer-project-Front-Rd-and-King-St-West> and <https://globalnews.ca/video/9158227/public-meeting-held-to-inform-residents-about-front-road-construction-delays>.