

TRANSPORTATION, TRAFFIC SAFETY AND TRANSIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Airport Parkway Widening Project and West Walkley Rd (WWR):

- 1. Summary of Recent Developments; and,**
- 2. Recommendations for Next Steps**

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS - 1:

- June 2022: West Walkley Rd (WWR) Traffic Calming Pilot Project;
- Airport Parkway Widening Phase 1 (Brookfield Rd to Hunt Club Rd) Public Open House #1 – Project Update, Nov 23 -- **Dec 16 deadline for comments to City:**

<https://documents.ottawa.ca/sites/documents/files/Nov%2023%2C%202022%20-%20CP584%20Airport%20Parkway%20-%20POH-1%20Presentation%20-%20EN%20FINAL.pdf>

- Walkley Road Corridor Townhall Meeting, Dec 6 -- **Dec 23 deadline for comments to City:**

https://documents.ottawa.ca/sites/documents/files/CP584_Walkley_Presentation_en%2C%20v1.pdf

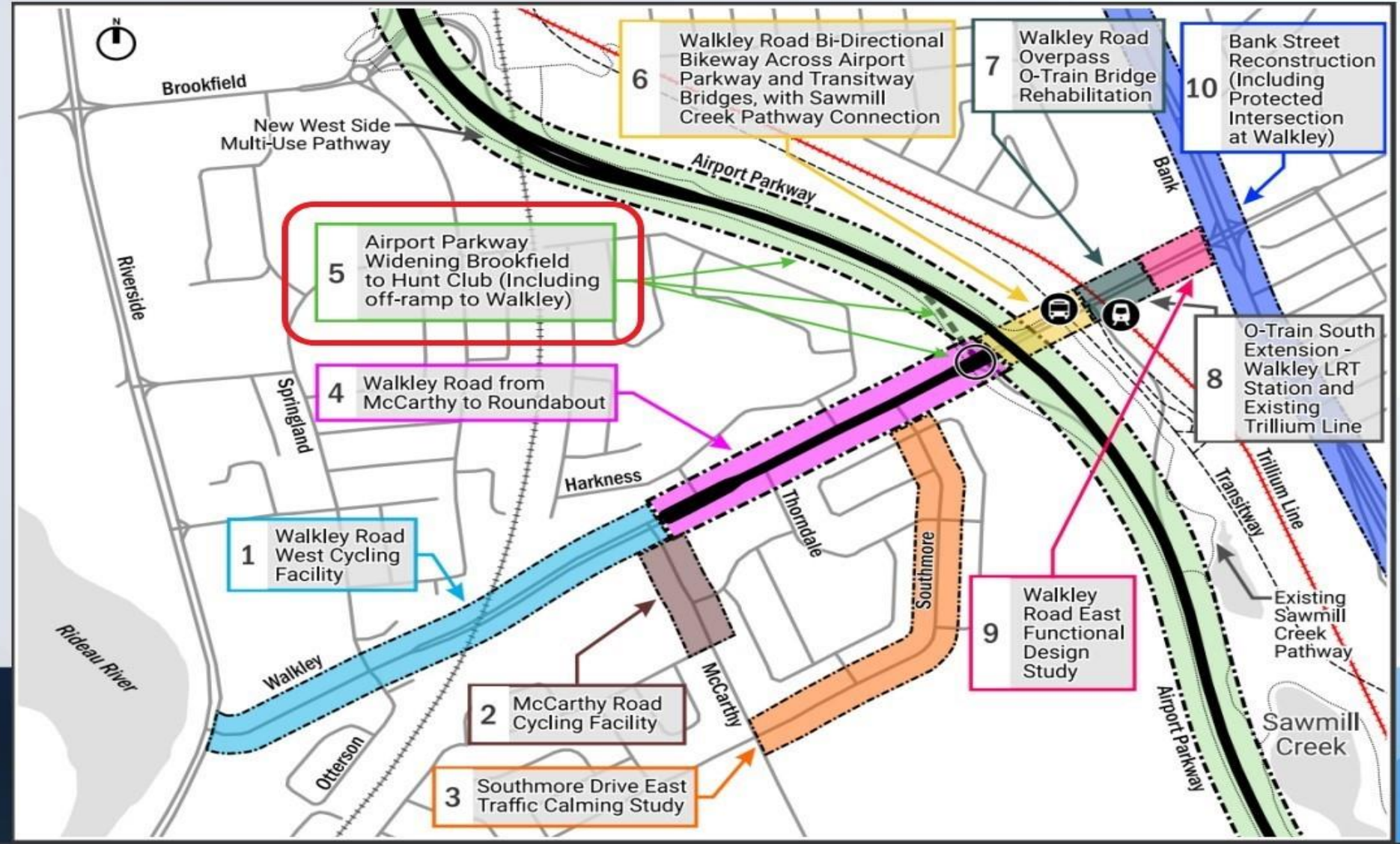
- Detailed project design (including for WWR) to be completed by Fall 2023, but construction now delayed until at least 2027, with no plan for Phase 2 to widen Parkway south of Hunt Club Rd before 2031.
- RPCA community meeting discussions September and November.

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RECENT DEVELOPMENTS/2 – PROJECTS PLANNED OR UNDERWAY (a):



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS/3 – PROJECTS PLANNED OR UNDERWAY (b):

Ten City Investment Projects Planned or Underway

	Project and Limits	Design Status	Funding / Implementation Horizon
1	Walkley Road West Cycling Facility – Riverside to McCarthy	Functional Design Commenced Winter 2022 and to be completed winter 2023	Subject to annual budget decisions
2	McCarthy Road Cycling Facility	Functional Design	Subject to annual budget decisions
3	Southmore Drive East Traffic Calming Study	Detailed design commencing	Implementation planned for late 2023 or in 2024
4	Walkley Road Roundabout and Street Modifications – McCarthy to Roundabout	Detailed Design Commenced Winter 2022 and to be completed Fall 2023	Subject to annual budget decisions
5	Airport Parkway Widening – Brookfield to Hunt Club (including off-ramp to Walkley)	Detailed Design Commenced Winter 2022 and to be completed Fall 2023	Subject to annual budget decisions
6	Walkley Road Bi-Directional Bikeway across Airport Parkway Bridge, with Sawmill Creek Pathway Connection	Functional Design Commenced Winter 2022 and to be completed winter 2023	Subject to annual budget decisions
7	Walkley Road Overpass O-Train Bridge Rehabilitation	Substantially completion by December 2022	Funded
8	O-Train South Extension	Completion Scheduled 2023	Funded
9	Walkley Road East Functional Design Study (Walkley LRT Station to Bank Street Renewal Western Limit)	Functional Design	Subject to annual budget decisions
10	Bank Street Renewal, including Walkley/Bank Protected Intersection	Detailed Design Commenced Winter 2022 and to be completed Fall 2023	Subject to annual budget decisions

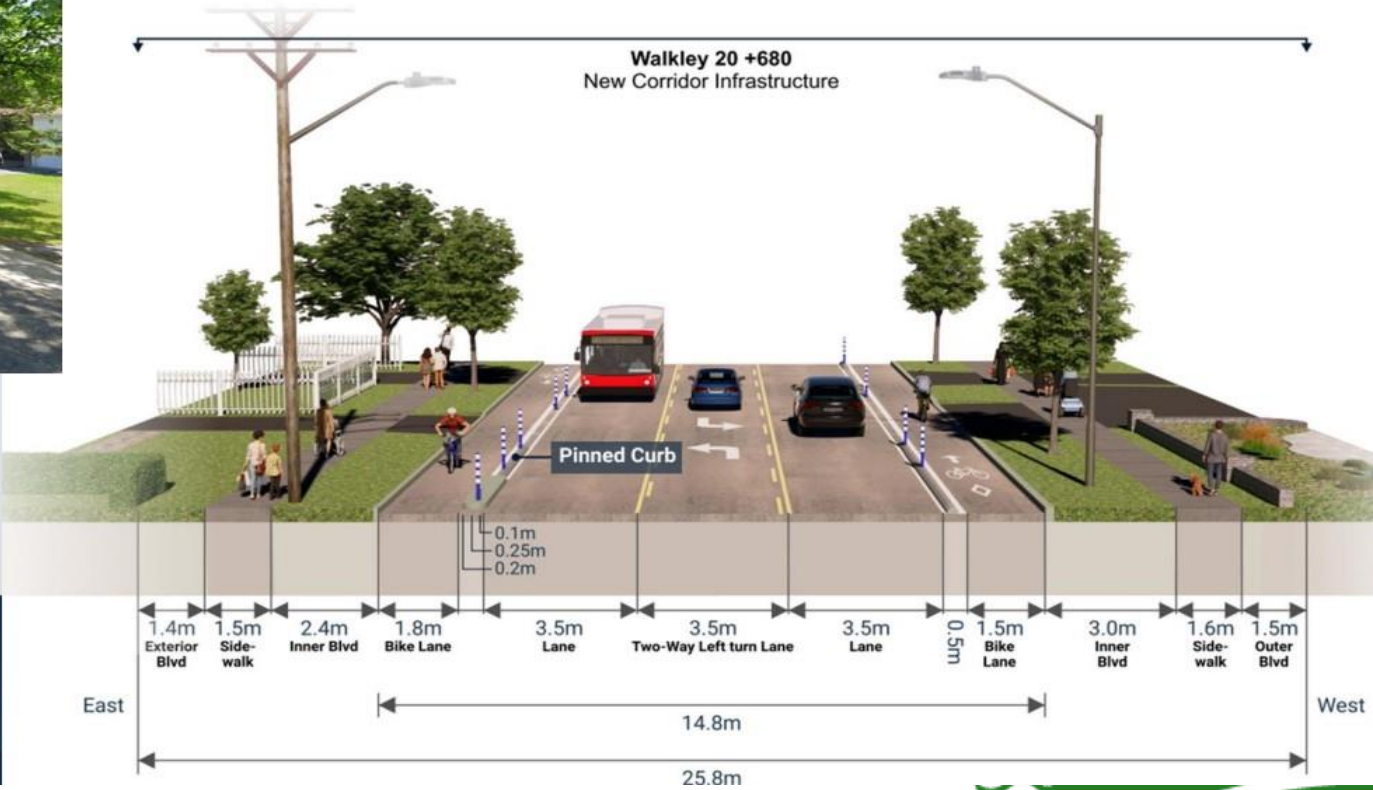
RECENT DEVELOPMENTS/4 – A “VISION” FOR WWR (a):

The Vision - Riverside to Airport Parkway

From this ...



To this



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS/5 – A “VISION” FOR WWR (b):

Proposed Street Modifications

- Protected bike lanes
- One vehicle travel lane in each direction
- Two-way left turn lane
- Ride-over bus stops
- Existing sidewalks remain



RECOMMENDATIONS – THAT RPCA:

- 1. Support the proposed “vision” for WWR along the lines presented by City at the Dec 6 Townhall meeting and request the City to implement the various project elements comprising the “vision” as soon as possible and separate from the widening of the Airport Parkway and construction of the off-ramp, roundabout and west-side MUP; and,**
- 2. Request that the City undertake a comprehensive review of the Airport Parkway widening itself, given its continued delay, significant escalation in cost and various other uncertainties and unanswered questions, with the scope of the review also to include the off-ramp, roundabout and west-side MUP.**

RECOMMENDATIONS – WWR VISION/1:

- Vision provides a comprehensive plan covering full length of WWR from Riverside Dr to Bank St, integrating all significant improvements underway or planned, including roundabout to Walkley LRT station – a major step forward.
- Addresses growing concerns about safety of WWR that limits its safe use by all users and its environmental impact, factors detrimentally affecting the welfare of the broader community.
- Without action now, situation will continue to worsen, especially as traffic volumes return to pre-pandemic levels and due to other problems, particularly speeding;
- Unless delinked from uncertainties of Airport Parkway widening, many improvements needed now will be unnecessarily delayed or lost.

RECOMMENDATIONS – WWR VISION/2:

June Traffic Calming Pilot Project validated benefits of some the proposed traffic mitigation measures and identified specific problems that City has sought to address:

Did the Results Support the Corridor Vision?

YES ... the findings help support the City's position:

1. That Walkley Road can operate successfully with the proposed lane arrangement between the Airport Parkway and Riverside Drive
2. That walking conditions will improve
3. That cycling facilities can be implemented along the street edge
4. That bus transit travel time and reliability can be maintained
5. That vehicle travel speeds will be reduced and level of service remain adequate
6. That cut through traffic will not be significant

RECOMMENDATIONS – REVIEW AIRPORT PARKWAY WIDENING/1:

- The *Airport Parkway & Lester Road Widening Environmental Assessment Study* (August 2016) – the project’s basic planning framework and approval document -- provides for a **mandatory** review of the project in certain situations:

8.5 Modifying the Recommended Plan (p.254):

“*Due to unforeseen circumstances*, it may not be feasible to implement the project as described in this ESR [environmental study report]. Accordingly, *any significant* modifications to the project or *change in the environmental setting for the project which occurs after the filing of this environmental assessment shall be reviewed* by the City of Ottawa and an addendum to the EA shall be prepared as appropriate.” (emphasis added)

- Current circumstances warrant a review of the Airport Parkway widening, with the scope of proposed review also to include the proposed off-ramp, roundabout and west-side MUP.

RECOMMENDATIONS – REVIEW AIRPORT PARKWAY WIDENING/2:

Reasons why a review of Airport Parkway Widening Project is warranted:

- **Significant and continuing uncertainty** about work, travel and traffic trends arising from the pandemic, rapid advances in technology and other factors;
- Forecast traffic levels justifying the Parkway's widening are mainly based on pre-pandemic data, but **important additional data will become available in next several years:**
 - Results of Transportation Master Plan's **Origin/Destination Survey** will be available in Fall 23;
 - **Trillium Line is scheduled to enter into service in Fall 2023**, allowing several years to measure actual impact on Parkway traffic volumes.

RECOMMENDATIONS – REVIEW AIRPORT PARKWAY WIDENING/3:

More reasons why a review of Airport Parkway Widening Project is warranted:

- Other studies and sources of information may be available; e.g. Riverside Park Community Mobility study.
- **Changing policy context, notably increasing concerns about road building vs more sustainable transportation alternatives at a time of a growing environmental emergency – some examples:**
 - **Draft updated TMP, Policy 8-2:** “avoid adding new road or highway capacity that competes with rapid transit” (p. 84);
 - **Loss of greenspace** (mainly between Brookfield Rd and WWR).

RECOMMENDATIONS – REVIEW AIRPORT PARKWAY WIDENING/4

Still more reasons why a review of Airport Parkway Widening Project is warranted:

- **Significant increase in costs (up 75% to date)** at a time of growing doubts about the adequacy of development charges being used to fund the project.
- **Uncertainty about major project components:**
 - **Currently no plans for any significant work between 2024 to 2026**, after completion of detailed design in late 2023 – leaves plenty of time for a comprehensive review including design adjustments arising therefrom;
 - **Lengthy delay to Phase 2 widening Parkway south of Hunt Club Rd (only after 2031) and its priority vs. widening of only Lester Rd**, which could leave Phase 1 “stranded”.

**Further information available upon request, and/or
please submit comments to:**

transportation@riversidepark.ca

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