

**Transportation, Traffic Safety and Transit
Committee Report:**

**Follow-up to “Project Update” on the
“Impact of Walkley Road Modifications Prior to
Airport Parkway Widening”
8 January 2024 Community Meeting**

Community Meeting – Overview/1:

- Well attended meeting – around 100 people – lasting 2 1/4 hours.
- Views/positions continue to be divided pro/con on need for off-ramp and planned traffic calming measures for WWR.
- Continued lack of understand/knowledge among many about project history, planned modifications and their benefits, including 2016 *Environmental Study Report*, previous project approval by City and Province, and City Council *Budget 2023* resolutions reaffirming plans for off-ramp and WWR, notwithstanding deferral of widening of Airport Parkway.
- Feeling that proposed modifications need to be better explained and justified.
- Concern that main focus of presentation gave insufficient attention to safety, growing importance of active transportation as well as benefits of WWR to other users, and its detrimental environmental impact on the community (e.g. slide 7/Purpose & Key Study Questions).

Community Meeting – Overview/2:

- Disproportionate attention on use of cars, facilitating growing vehicle traffic volumes, and possible driver inconveniences.
- Fear that “worst case” traffic volume forecasts presented may be underestimates, as was case for Hunt Club off-ramp projections:
 - Need for more and better data, including about methodology used for traffic volume forecasts.
- Efforts to deflect responsibility/accountability from City Council onto City staff to address difficult issues resulting from what some see as poor Council decisions.
- Recognition that problems are only being shifted from Mooney’s Bay (Springland and Flannery) onto WWR and adjacent streets (Southmore and McCarthy) – as acknowledged by 2016 *Environmental Study Report*.

Community Meeting – Overview/3:

- Significant interest in other ways to address speeding and other growing safety problems, notably by using photo radar -- even though WWR, as an arterial road, isn't eligible for this and other means of traffic calming.
 - Nevertheless, 2023 Community Safety Zone designation considered an important positive step.
- General concern that “secondary” issues involving impact on adjacent streets (left turns onto Wexford & Avoncourt), cut-through traffic (Southmore, Thorndale, Provost) and congestion on McCarthy Rd which is “out of project scope”, haven't been adequately considered.
- Undertaking by Councillor and City staff to document and address all concerns/issues raised and to continue community consultations.

NEXT STEPS:

- **Project schedule:**
 - 2024-25: Finish detailed project design;
 - 2026-27: Construction.
- **JANUARY 22 DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS.**

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- January 8 Community Meeting presentation available at:
https://documents.ottawa.ca/sites/documents/files/Jan8%2C2024_CP584_presentation_en_final.pdf
- For the comprehensive “vision” for WWR from Riverside Dr to Bank St, see the *Walkley Road Corridor Townhall Meeting* presentation of December 6, 2022, at:
https://documents.ottawa.ca/sites/documents/files/CP584_Walkley_Presentation_en%2C%20v1.pdf