

St. Paul Street West CNR Bridge Closure

Niagara Region and City of St. Catharines

Neighbourhood Update

November 8, 2023



Agenda

- 6 p.m. – Welcome and Introductions (5 mins)
- 6:05 p.m. – Presentation (30 mins)
- 6:35 p.m. – Questions to the Presentation (40 mins)
- 7:15 - 8 p.m. – Open House

Tonight's Expectations

Why are we meeting tonight?

- To provide the neighbourhood around the train station (referred to as the GO Station Precinct Area) information on the upcoming full closure, demolition and replacement of the St. Paul Street West CNR Bridge

Tonight is an Open House, not a Public Information Centre (PIC)

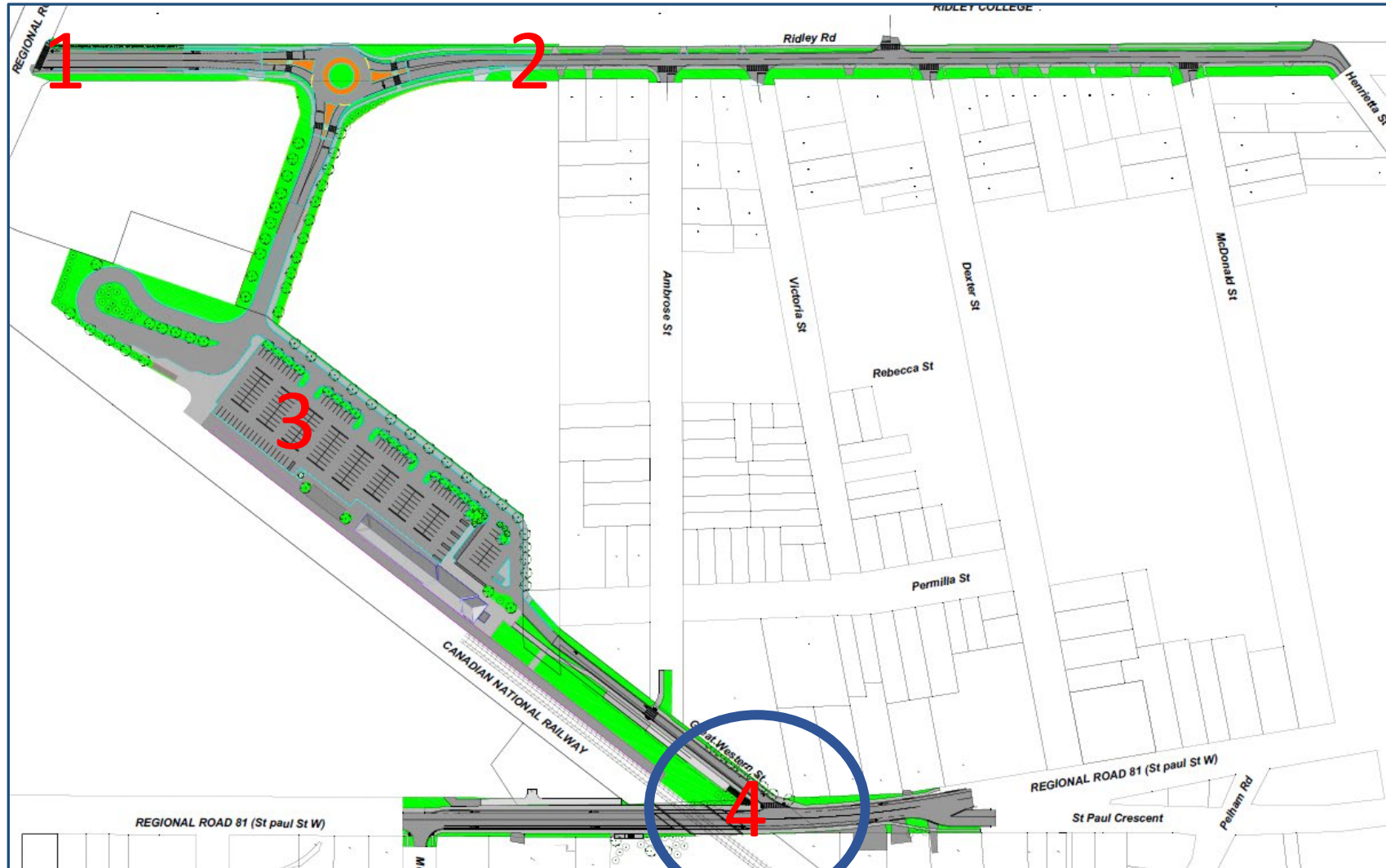
- For any of the planned projects in the area
- For a review of previous infrastructure or policy decisions
- Will not examine neighbourhood development(s)
- Not intended to address specific residential property issues
- Will not be addressing any GO Transit services (bus or train)

Tonight's Expectations Continued

Housekeeping Items:

- Always respect your neighbours and staff
 - Ask questions respectfully
 - One discussion – avoid side conversations
- Washrooms
- We are visitors on Ridley's Campus – stay within Open House area (Williams Hall)
- All cell phones on 'silent' please

GO Precinct Overview



1. Louth Street Environmental Assessment (EA)
2. Ridley Road Reconstruction (Henrietta to Louth)
3. Train Station Site Redevelopment
4. St. Paul Street West (RR81) CN Rail Bridge Replacement

Bridge Closure

Why is the bridge closing?

- The bridge closure is due to the accelerated deterioration of the structure
- Niagara Region received a report from a structural engineer indicating that deterioration of the structural members on St. Paul Street West CNR Bridge had advanced
- The bridge will no longer be able to withstand the combined traffic and snow loads in the upcoming winter season



Bridge Closure Anticipated Timeline

Nov. 8, 2023 – Public Information Open House

Nov. 13, 2023 – Information newsletter hand delivered to neighbourhood residents

Nov. 20, 2023 – Full closure installed

Dec. 1, 2023 – Bridge removal tender issued

Dec. 22, 2023 – Bridge removal tender close

Jan. 19, 2024 – Bridge removal contract award

Feb. 23, 2024 – Latest date Bell relocations must be completed

Feb. 26, 2024 – Bridge structure removal commences

March 2024

- Construction tender issued for:
 - Bridge replacement
 - GO Station site works
 - Ridley Road
 - Louth Street and Ridley Road intersection

Estimated GO Precinct construction completion – end of 2026

Bridge Closure Details

Why is it being closed now?

- The accelerated deterioration of the bridge poses a risk to health and safety of the public within the road and rail right of ways.

How long will the bridge be closed?

- It is anticipated that the bridge may be closed to vehicles until the end of 2026 when a new structure will be in place.

Why can't the bridge be removed immediately after closing?

- Bell Canada has some major infrastructure on the bridge that must be removed before the bridge removal can start.

Why will construction take so long?

- The project involves a complete rebuild of the approaches, the abutments and a new bridge deck, not a simple bridge deck replacement. Everything about the structure is changing, including its width to add new features.

Pedestrian Detour Route

What is the pedestrian and cyclist detour route?

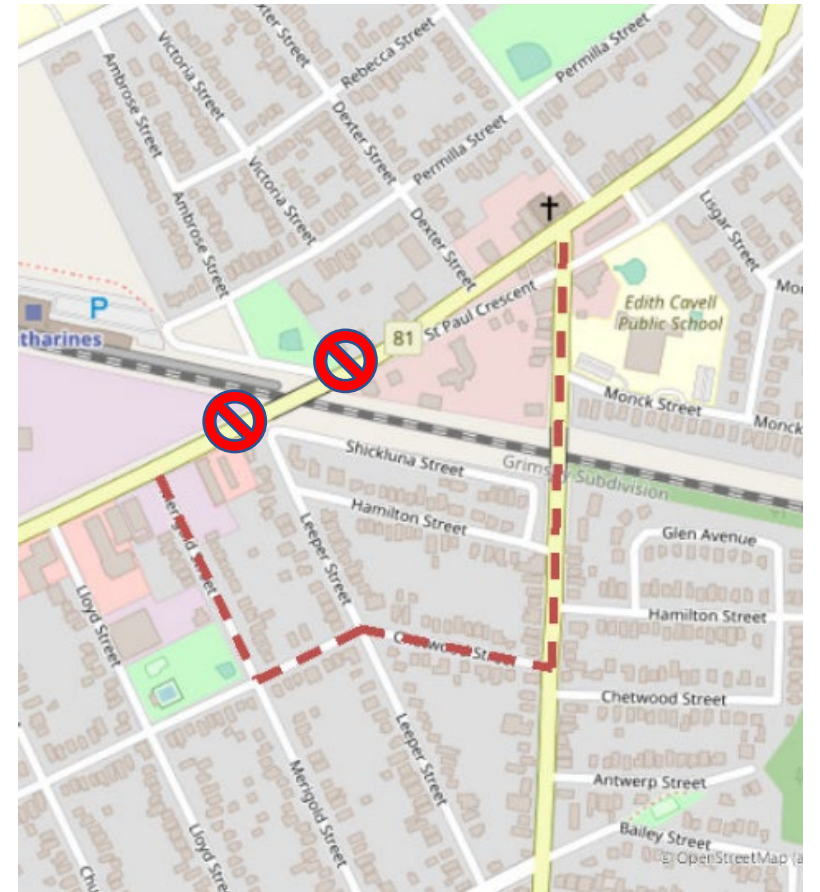
Westbound

St. Paul Street West to Pelham Road to Chetwood Street to Merigold Street to St. Paul Street West

Eastbound

St. Paul Street West to Merigold Street to Chetwood Street to Pelham Road to St. Paul Street West

The pedestrian detour will begin when the bridge is removed and continue until the new bridge is in place.



Vehicle Detour Route

What is the vehicle detour route?

Westbound

St. Paul Street West to Pelham Road to Louth Street to St. Paul Street West

Eastbound

St. Paul Street West to Louth Street to Pelham Road to St. Paul Street West

- **This vehicular detour will remain in place while the bridge is closed**



Traffic in the Neighbourhood

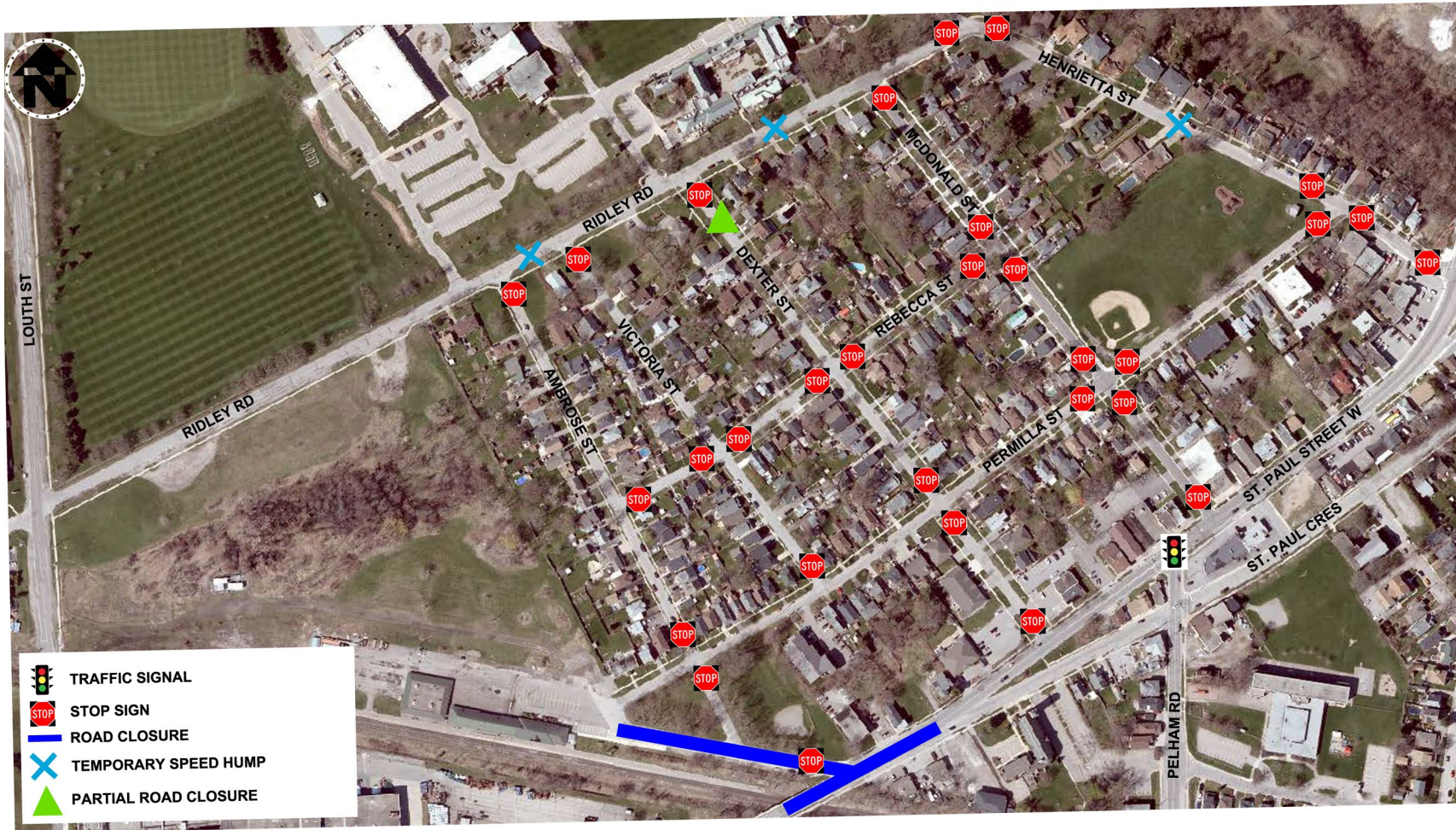
What is being done to address traffic through/reduce impacts to the neighbourhood?

- The City of St. Catharines is putting measures in place within the adjacent neighbourhoods to reduce the impacts of traffic
- The measures include:
 - New temporary speed humps on Henrietta Street and Ridley Road
 - New partial road closures – “local traffic only” Dexter and Chetwood streets
- The partial road closures will be monitored and adjusted as required throughout the period of the bridge closure
- As significant construction work within the Ridley neighbourhood is undertaken, this will be an additional further deterrent to “cut through” traffic

Traffic Mitigation Plan



Traffic Mitigation Plan (Cont.)



Transit Impacts

Niagara Region Transit (NRT)

- Route 303
 - Outbound from terminal to Smart Centre – No change
 - Inbound to terminal from Smart Centre – Fourth Avenue to Ontario Street to Church Street to terminal
 - Operates as Route 403 on evenings, weekends, and holidays
 - There will be no bus service on St. Paul Street W. between the Pelham Road and Louth Street, or on Chetwood Street & Merigold Street
- Route 315/415
 - Outbound from the terminal to the Pen Centre - King Street to Ontario Street to Fourth Avenue to Louth Street to Smart Centre to Louth Street to St. Paul Street W. to regular route
 - Inbound to terminal from Pen Centre – Regular route to St. Paul Street W. to Louth Street to Smart Centre to Fourth Avenue to Ontario Street to Church Street to terminal
- For the most up to date information on routes please visit Niagara Region Transit at <https://nrtransit.ca/>

Transit Impacts (Cont.)

GO Transit (GO Bus Route 18K)

- Stops removed from St. Paul Street West at Great Western Street and Leeper Street
- New northbound and southbound stops at St. Paul Street West and Louth Street
- For the most up to date information on routes please visit GO Transit at <https://www.gotransit.com/>

Ongoing Communication

ACTIVITY	TIMING	NOTES
Digital communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Webpages• Social media (Facebook, X (Twitter), Next Door)• Email contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will add project updates and progress• Planned amalgamation of webpages to a “one stop shop” for information on all projects• Contact information on project web pages; email or phone with questions or concerns
Pre-Construction Public Information Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Late spring / Early summer 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To inform the public on the proposed construction works in the neighbourhood
Public notices/letters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project commencements• PIC	

Questions?

- Keep questions to information/projects in the presentation
- Focus on neighbourhood impacts not property-specific issues/concerns
- Staff are available at the information boards to speak with individually and answer any site-specific questions
- Traffic mitigation/calming suggestions/feedback can be submitted to staff at the boards on traffic mitigation

Thank You

For more information on these and other projects referenced tonight,
visit:

niagararegion.ca/projects

OR

stcatharines.ca/en/roads-parking-and-traffic/construction-map.aspx