

Norfolk Street Reconstruction

The City of Guelph has received more than \$44 million in infrastructure money as a joint grant from the Federal and Provincial governments. The funding was announced this past June, and it must be spent completely no later than March 2011. As a result, there are 17 building and reconstruction projects in the city either in process or planned to begin soon.

The project of most immediate interest to St. Andrew's is the reconstruction of Norfolk Street from Quebec Street, north to the Five Points intersection. Construction is scheduled to begin immediately after Labour Day. It will proceed in three phases and total completion will not be until the summer of 2010.

Representatives of Session and the Board of Managers attended a recent City information session on this subject. There was an opportunity to discuss details with City representatives, and a further list of questions submitted in writing is awaiting responses.

The City has plans in place to attempt to reduce the inconvenience which will result from this project as much as possible; however the stretch of Norfolk St. immediately in front of the church will be reduced to one lane of traffic in each direction for most of the next year. ***In particular, it is likely that the steps and ramp access from Norfolk St to the sidewalk immediately in front of the church will be torn out and will not be replaced until the completion of the project, if at all. Furthermore, there will be no parking anywhere on Norfolk St. until the project is completed.***

As far as we know now, it 'will' be possible to drive and park on Suffolk St., and to let passengers off at the corner of Suffolk and Norfolk. The Norfolk St. sidewalk will be accessible most of the time, but there will be brief periods when access may be temporary and challenging. When that happens, members of the congregation who are accustomed to entering through one of the two doors facing onto Norfolk St., may be required to use the side door from Suffolk St. for one or two occasional Sundays.

We will continue to share information with you as it comes to us, but in the mean time, ***if you feel that any of these arrangements will make it absolutely impossible for you to enter the church, please let us know so that we can find a way to accommodate your difficulties. In addition, if you have not normally parked in the Church parking lot off Yarmouth St., but you expect to begin to do so as the result of the inaccessibility of parking on Norfolk St., could you please let us know that as well?***

Thank you

***Virginia Gillham, Chair
Board of Managers***