

Kerr Village—Small Town, Big Traffic

Revitalization has its advantages! Residents enjoy higher property values and a better quality of life. Merchants profit from an expanded customer base. Property owners benefit from increased occupancy rates. But while the perks outweigh the pitfalls, revitalization can lead to growing pains. Most notably—an increase in traffic.

Endorsed by Council, the Kerr Village Revitalization Study was first conducted in 2004. The ensuing vision was to establish Kerr Village as a mixed use area for medium and higher density residential uses, as well as new commercial and retail development. The need for the Kerr Village Traffic Study was subsequently identified. Its purpose? Test the capability of the planned transportation network to accommodate both short (2011) and long term (2021) travel demands.

Recommendations were first presented at a public meeting in May of 2007. An additional public open house was recently held on Sept. 17 giving stakeholders the opportunity to view the land use and transportation scenarios proposed by the traffic study consultant. Additional traffic work is still underway, but the study does recommend a number of long term street changes including an extension to Shepherd Rd. and St. Augustine Dr., the removal of the St. Augustine jog at Maurice Dr. and a connection of Mary Street with Herald Ave.

The traffic study will proceed to Council to be received tentatively on Nov. 10. A plan will then be prepared to implement the study in support of future revitalization work. The revitalization work will be presented to the public in late 2008 or early 2009. The following traffic-related issues are still under consideration:

- **Kerr Street/CN Crossing Grade Separation Environmental Assessment (EA):** The CN railway tracks currently intersect Kerr St. at a grade level crossing controlled by

bells, flashers and gates. The study is assessing the need to widen Kerr St. and separate it at grade level in the future—for capacity and safety reasons. The EA commenced in the spring of 2008 and is scheduled for completion in early 2009. The preliminary recommendation is to widen Kerr St. and separate it at grade level with the road running under the railway. The study will select a preferred alignment. Further information from the study will be presented at a Public Information Meeting this fall. All stakeholders will be notified of the exact date.

- **Northbound Right Turn Lane at Speers Rd. and Kerr St.:** The implementation of a northbound right turn lane was planned for this intersection in 2008. However, it has been delayed until 2009 when the future design of the intersection of Speers Rd./Kerr St. has been established from two environmental assessment studies currently underway. These are the Kerr St./CN Grade Separation EA and the Speers Rd. EA.
- **Speers Rd. Environmental Assessment (EA):** A study is currently underway to determine the future lane design of Speers Rd. between Kerr St. and Bronte Rd. This study commenced in early 2008 and is projected to be completed in early 2009. It is assessing the need to widen Speers Rd. for capacity and safety reasons.

Recommendations on a preferred design will be presented at a Public Information Meeting this fall. All stakeholders will be notified of the exact date.