



## Report of the Public Works Department

St-Albert Road West and Route 500 West Closure During Roundabout Construction

Report No.: TP-015-2024

Meeting Date: November 27, 2024

## **Executive Summary**

During the 2025 budget discussions, Council anticipates allocating funds for the construction of a roundabout at the intersection of County Road 3 (Notre-Dame Street / Route 500 West) and County Road 5 (Limoges Road / St-Albert Road West)

The Public Works Department is seeking Council support and authorization to close St-Albert Road West between Route 400 and Notre-Dame Street / Route 500 West and Route 500 West between Limoges Road / St-Albert Road West to Rolland Road during the construction of the roundabout.

## **Options and Recommendation**

### Options

Option 1 (recommended):

- That Council approves to fully close St-Albert Road West (County Road 5) from Route 400 to Notre-Dame Street / Route 500 West and Route 500 West between Limoges Road / St-Albert Road West to Rolland Road, except for local traffic only, for the duration of the roundabout construction at the intersection of County Road 3 and County Road 5 as per the proposed detour routes presented in Appendix A of Report TP-0015-2024.

Option 2:

- Mandate the Public Works to evaluate different traffic control options to maintain St-Albert Road West open, as feasible, during the roundabout construction at the intersection of County Road 3 and County Road 5.

### Recommendation

Be it resolved that Council approves Option 1, as stated in Report TP-015-2024.

## **Background Information and Analysis**

Significant costs and extended timelines for roundabout projects are primarily attributed to the complexity of construction staging. Before moving forward with the tender, the Public Works identified an opportunity to reduce costs and timelines by closing St-Albert Road West during construction. This closure would allow the majority of the roundabout to be built simultaneously, limiting the project to just two construction stages instead of three or four. This closure would increase the likelihood of completing the project within a single construction season and reducing traffic control and mobilization costs.

Currently, the Public Works Department does not have an exact saving estimate, however maintaining traffic flow and keeping all legs open poses a greater challenge for contractors compared to a partially closed intersection.

The recommended closure would span most of the construction period; however, the proposed detour is minimal, extending only 6.7km. For vehicles travelling southbound towards the village of St-Albert they would take the following detour.

- Right turn at Notre-Dame Street
- Left turn on St-Joseph Street
- Left turn on Route 400
- Right turn back on St-Albert Road West

The northbound detour would be the same, however, in the opposite direction.

Appendix A demonstrates the detour route options if St-Albert Road West were closed from Route 400 to Notre-Dame Street.

It is worth noting that Rolland Road, previously closed several years ago, would be reopened to allow vehicles to travel both ways on Route 500 West. Keeping Notre-Dame Street and Limoges Road open, along with reopening Rolland Road, would help minimize the impact on local businesses and is probably more effective than attempting to maintain free-flowing traffic in all directions since there's less disruption.

The Public Works Department recognizes that closing County Road 5 (St-Albert Road West) for most of the construction period is not ideal; however, this approach will significantly simplify traffic control during construction, leading to cost savings and a much better outcome.

### **Financial, Legal and Operational Implications**

As explained above in the analysis section.

### **Local Municipal Implications**

Township of Russell staff has been informed of the proposed detour if St-Albert Road West were closed and is supporting this proposal. The Nation Municipality staff are also aware that the intention is to reopen Rolland Road.

### **Asset Management Implications**

N/A

### **Communication Implications**

A communication strategy will be developed with the UCPR communication staff prior to the construction project in 2025.

### **Attachments**

- Appendix A – proposed detour

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## Appendix A – Proposed Detour

