

Business, community leaders welcome re-opening of Airport Road section

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On September 4, Airport Road in Caledon between Emma Street and Hilltop Drive, reopened with two lanes of traffic.

According to Peel Region, construction will continue under staged traffic conditions, and traffic-control measures will remain in place. Currently, they aren't expecting another full road closure. Phase 1 is expected to continue until the end of 2027, while Phase 2 is projected to finish by the end of 2029, subject to property acquisition and utility relocation.

This was reopened prior to the original scheduled reopening date on September 7 due to working on weekends and extending work hours.

Peel Region and its contractor were able to complete this phase of the work safely and ahead of schedule by working Saturdays, extending working hours where feasible and identifying opportunities to advance certain construction activities. These efforts allowed Airport Road to reopen before the long weekend while also minimizing impacts on nearby residents and businesses, said Karen Flores Senior Manager of Media Relations and Issues Management for Peel Region.

During the time that Airport Road was closed, many businesses said they lost customers due to the construction and closure.

One concern raised by members of the community at the July 28 meeting of Caledon Council was the communication from both the Town and the Region of Peel.

Ward 3 Councillor Doug Maskell agreed that there should have been additional steps in regard to keeping residents and businesses informed.

I believe that there should have been a formal, public meeting to allow business owners and residents to better understand the need for the road closure, said Maskell.

Despite the losses that the road has caused, Maskell said he is hopeful that this construction will have some positive effects.

The Airport Road reconstruction project (and a portion of Old Church Road) is fundamental to the revitalization of Caledon East. We will be getting a new road, new curbs, new sidewalks, new lighting and a multi-use trail. Caledon East will have a brand-new downtown. Once the Airport Road reconstruction is completed then the Town can build its new public square/park in downtown Caledon East. It is hoped that these improvements will attract new businesses and investment to Caledon East, said Maskell.

Reflecting on the construction, the Region of Peel plans to continue to provide updates in a variety of ways to keep the community informed.

The closure demonstrated the importance of maintaining regular communication with residents and businesses, responding to community feedback and identifying opportunities to adjust construction staging where feasible. As construction transitions from a full closure to staged traffic conditions, temporary pedestrian access and traffic-control measures will help keep Airport Road open while the next phase of work proceeds, said Flores. Peel Region will continue providing updates through hand-delivered notices, door hangers, social media, the Connect to Peel newsletter and the project webpage. Updates will also continue to be provided to the local Councillor.

For more information about Phase 2 visit, peelregion.ca/construction/project-19-4060.