

Carlson Drive Drainage Project

In 2024, Woodlands County retained an engineering consultant to perform a topographical survey to the County right-of-way within the project area to collect data, identify the problematic areas, provide options for drainage enhancement, and design for the work. The project limit was determined to be between Highway 658 and east of the Goose Lake fire hall for approximately 1.7km. The scope was identified as general drainage improvement as some residents identified water is not draining into or across the road right-of-way. To date, data collection, issue identification, and some options development have been completed.

Identified Problem Areas:

The consultant has identified the following issues with drainage on Carlson Drive:

Issue 1 – Culverts: Out of 32 culverts, only 6 meet County standards in size causing most to be blocked or buried. At least 14 locations were identified that should have culverts installed where they are non-existent.

Issue 2 – Ditching: Overall ditches within project limits are shallow (0.9km out of 1.7km) or not defined (0.4km out of 1.7km). Right of way is insufficient to allow for a proper ditch.

Issue 3 – Pedestrian Trail: The walking trail adjacent to the road has further reduced ditching capacity and effectiveness along the roadway. Many obstructions along the pathway were also noted such as grassy sections, areas that no longer have pavement, tree branches impeding use, poor uneven surfaces and areas with significant ponding due to lack of cross drain culverts.

Issue 4 – Tree: Trees that occupy the right-of-way contribute to poor drainage, reduces capacity for ditch, are hazardous to pedestrians in addition to fire hazards.

Issue 5 – Ponding: Twelve ponding areas were observed, likely due to a combination of poor drainage, culvert situation or obstructions.

Public Engagement Session:

A public engagement session was held on August 28th, 2025 which reviewed the results from the engineering assessment, proposed options, and next steps. For full details see the council information: [RFD: Carlson Drive Drainage Improvement Project Update](#).

The Purpose: The purpose of the public engagement session was to discuss with the residents, answer questions, gather and review responses then develop a recommendation to council.

The Results: The results from the public engagement session were presented to Council on September 24, 2025, to review feedback and discuss next steps. For full details see the council information: [RFD: Carlson Drive Drainage Improvement Project Update](#).

Administration recommended the Limited Reconstruction option for advancement into the next steps of the design process. The Limited Reconstruction option is aimed at investing in the items with the highest return, such as culverts, ditches and trees. While accepting some other items, such as right-of-way width, which is not to current county standards.

This option is recommended based on:

- Strong public support.
- A balanced approach between cost and overall benefit.
- Flexibility for implementation through phasing, which may reduce funding requirements per phase.

Council approved recommendation above and directed administration to proceed with the Limited Reconstruction option.

The Design Phase: The design phase, which has commenced, will include development of detailed designs, a phasing plan, environmental permitting, utility relocations, and refined cost estimates. Administration anticipates that environmental permitting requirements will extend the project design phase timeline into 2026.

Construction funding is not currently allocated.

For more information:

Recordings of all Council Meetings are also available on the Woodlands YouTube Channel.

Further questions or comments are encouraged to contact Administration at:

infra@woodlands.ab.ca.