

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 and provide options for enhancement and design for the work.

An open house was held on August 28th the Goose Lake Hall which reviewed the results from the engineering assessment, proposed options, and next steps. For full details see the council information held on August 13, 2025.

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.

Identified Problem areas:

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 reduced further ditching capacity even further and effectiveness along the roadway. Many obstructions along the pathway were also noted such as grassy sections, areas that no longer have pavement, tree line branches impeding use, poor uneven surfaces and areas with significant ponding.

Issue 4 – Tree obstruction: Trees that occupy the right-of-way contribute to poor drainage, 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.

Options

1. Culvert maintenance and additional culverts. Estimated between \$300,000-\$400,000
2. Tree clearing, ditch regrading, culvert maintenance, culvert replacement, and culvert additions. Estimated to be <\$1million
3. Complete reconstruction of ditches (with full tree clearing), culverts and right-of-way current standard. Estimated to be <\$1.6million.

Information on Options:

- If reconstruction of the trail is desirable, it can only be achieved if option 3 is selected and a high-level estimated cost can be around \$500,000.
- Not all activities in the three options are capital items. Some activities in options 1 & 2 are operating budget items.
- There is also the potential that if the work is performed by internal forces, it can be phased over a number of years.

For feedback and questions please email infra@woodlands.ab.ca