



NEWS LOCAL

Burgoyne Bridge span plan revealed

By [Karena Walter](#), The Standard
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Residents check out artist renderings at an open house for Burgoyne Bridge replacement Wednesday night. JULIE JOCSAK/ Standard Staff



The project manager for the Burgoyne Bridge replacement knows the striking arch at its centre makes it a “signature,” or a “gateway,” but it’s functional too.

“It is a real arch,” he told almost 100 people gathered for a public meeting Wednesday night at Ridley College. “The bridge depends on it for strength and stability.”

The arch will be constructed in the third stage of the project — the current bridge is in its way — with the anticipated completion of the whole structure in winter or spring 2015.

Anderson, vice president of bridges and structures for engineering consultant Delcan, said afterwards the design is inspired by the Lusitania Bridge in Merida, Spain, designed by Dr. Santiago Calatrava. That bridge was itself inspired by a Roman span.

“I think there’s a certain elegance to the bridge,” Anderson said.

Residents who attended the meeting were treated to a multitude of details, from the tidbit the bridge will have mesh barriers “as light and airy as possible” to the plan for nighttime lighting with “nice glow” that won’t adversely affect the environment.

There were also roadway modifications that will change the traffic flow in nearby neighbourhoods.

The most dramatic change will be the closure of Bellevue Terrace to pedestrian traffic only for safety reasons. Yates St. will lose northbound access to St. Paul St. and Hainer St. will lose southbound access from St. Paul St.

Henrietta St. is being realigned at St. Paul St. to improve sight-lines while St. Joseph St. will also see a realignment.

Jason Marr, Niagara Region’s senior transportation project engineer, told those gathered that there’s still some fine-tuning being done but what they saw Wednesday night is what is being built.

The Region hopes to go to tender with the project in May or early June with construction beginning in the summer or fall.

Residents were told to expect an increase in noise and dust, minor traffic delays, short-term access restrictions to adjacent properties and short-term road closures.

Bellevue Terrace resident Paul Lafrance said he liked the bridge plan, particularly the bike lanes since he’s a cyclist himself and the median, which he thought would be esthetically nice.

“I think it’s going to be a very attractive addition to the town,” said Trish Loat, who also attended the meeting. She said the arch will be classy.

Victor Anderson is used to hearing the question, “Is it real?”

Anderson said the St. Catharines bridge is the most interesting project he's worked on in 47 years in the business.

"It's a bridge that will be unique in North America. There's no other bridge like it."

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Plan for the span:

Stage 1 - Partial removal of the east sidewalk from the existing bridge; construction of the east half of the new bridge

Stage 2 - Demolition of the existing bridge; construction of the west half of the new bridge

Stage 3 - Construction of the arch; completion of the sidewalk on the new east bridge

Road modifications:

Yates St. - Remove northbound access from St. Paul St.; add parking spaces

Hainer St. - Remove southbound access from St. Paul St; remove exit onto St. Paul St.

Henrietta St. - Realignment at St. Paul to improve sightlines

Bellevue Terrace - Closure of road to pedestrian traffic only

St. Joseph St. - Road realignment from Hainer to the east side of the bridge