

THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAMBTON SHORES

Report DPW 10-2026

Council Meeting Date: March 17, 2026

TO: Mayor Cook and Members of Council
FROM: Nick Verhoeven, Director of Public Works
RE: King Street West Forest Extended Public Consultation Results
RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report DPW 10-2026 regarding the “King Street West Extended Public Consultation Results” be received; and

THAT a reduced scope of sidewalk replacement, water service maintenance and decorative crosswalk installations for the 2026 King Street West Construction project be approved.

SUMMARY

This report presents information on the Extended King Street West Public Consultation results and asks that Council provide direction to staff on the scope for the project.

BACKGROUND

At its November 18, 2025 meeting, Council passed the following resolution:

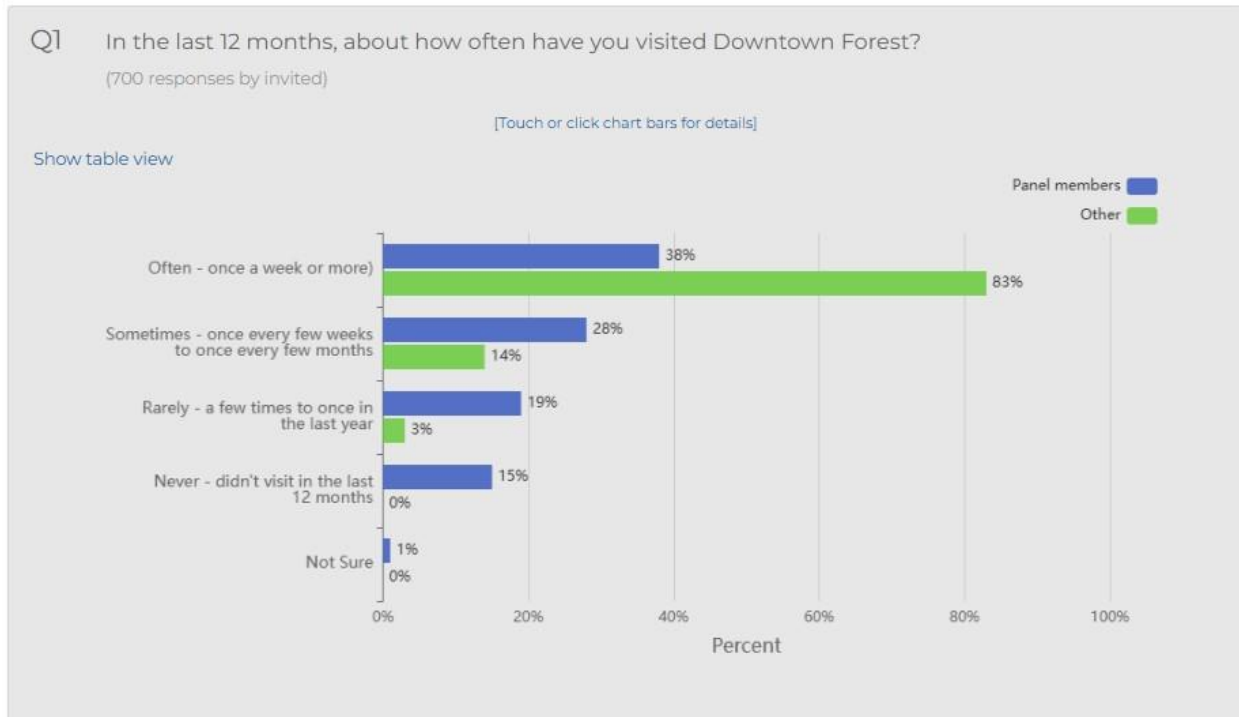
THAT Report DPW 21-2025 regarding King Street West Forest Public Consultation be received.

THAT staff be directed to undertake additional public engagement regarding the downtown Forest reconstruction project and report back to Council.

Council will recall that the King Street project was originally part of the Municipality’s capital plan to replace sidewalks. Following a presentation from the Forest BIA the project was expanded to consider reconfiguration, including a one-way street concept, to expand space for sidewalks and events. Initial public consultation on a one-way street concept was held during the late summer and fall of 2025 with mixed results. Council asked that further public consultation be undertaken as per the resolution on November 18, 2025.

Council may recall that Flashvote was selected by the Municipality earlier in 2025 as a tool for receiving non-biased public feedback on a variety of topics. Residents were asked to sign up for Flashvote without knowing a specific topic that they would be consulted on. The initial Flashvote registration was 532 people.

A survey to gather public input for the project was circulated in February 2026. The survey contained five questions. Of the initial 532 “member panel” (the original registrants), 338 registrants completed the survey. An additional 367 “others” signed up for Flashvote and completed the survey after the topic of the survey was made public. Both data sets for the original member panels and new registrants is provided in the images below. It is important to provide both data sets because responses from the panel represent statistically valid data, while “others” or the new registrants are likely to show preference bias since they may have signed up because of a particular opinion on the project.



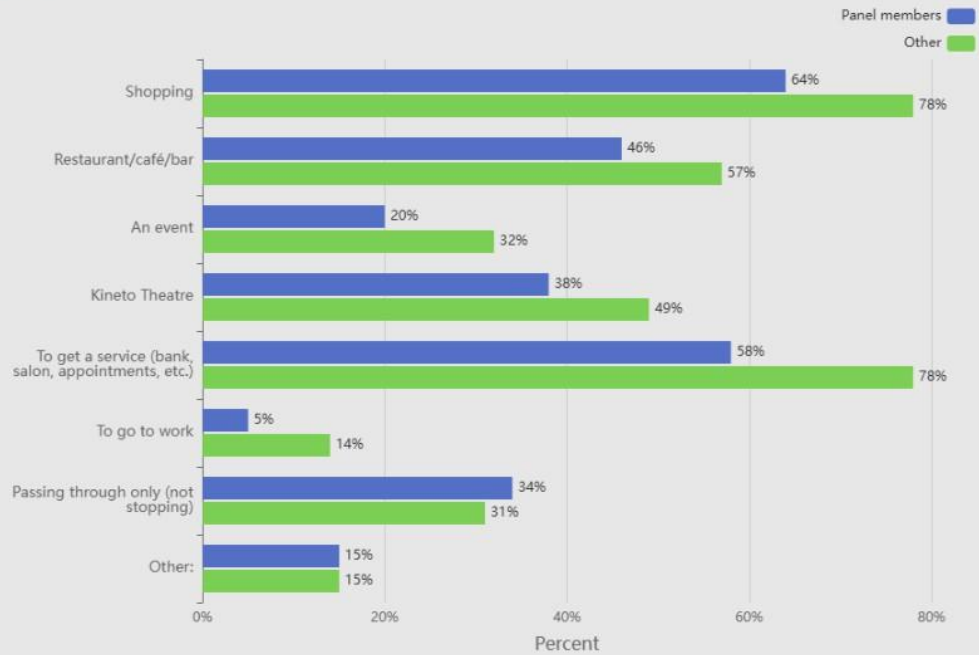
The first question asked respondents how often they visit downtown Forest. Responses from member panels visited downtown less often than ‘others’ (those that signed up once the topic was known).

Q2 In the last 12 months, what have you visited Downtown Forest for, if anything? (Choose all that apply, if any)

(576 responses by invited)

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Show table view



Show responses for "Other"

The second question asked respondents what their reason was for visiting downtown Forest.

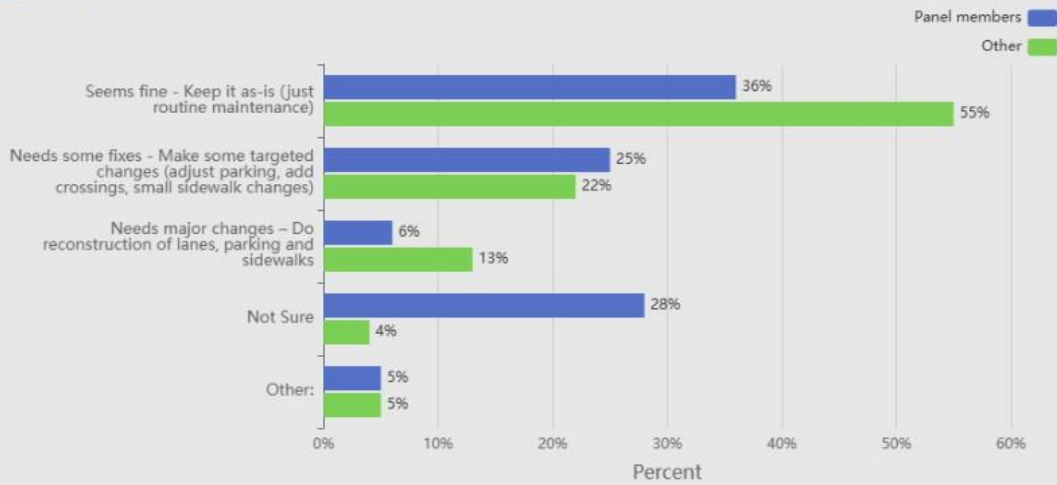
Q3 The Municipality of Lambton Shores is considering changes to King Street West in Downtown Forest (traffic lanes, parking, and sidewalks).

Which ONE best describes what you think about possible changes to King Street West?

(656 responses by invited)

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Show table view



Show responses for "Other"

The third question asked respondents to indicate their opinion on possible changes to King Street. In both groups the most popular response was to 'keep it as is', with 'others' having that opinion at a greater frequency (55% to 36%).

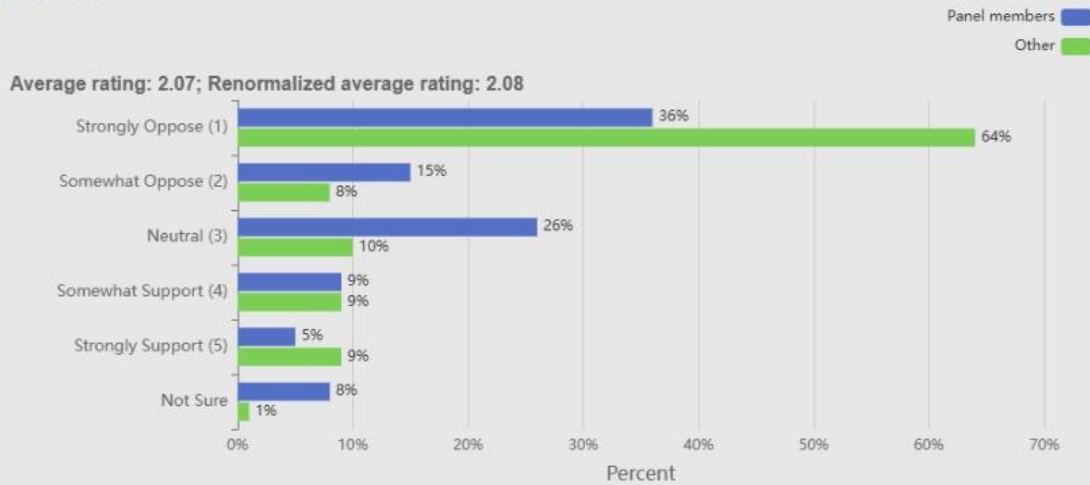
Q4 Think about how changing King Street West to a one-way street might improve or worsen the downtown experience for visitors.

What would be your overall support or opposition for making it a one-way street?

(649 responses by invited)

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Show table view



Question 4 asked respondents to state their opinion on making King Street a One way street. The most popular option for both groups was strong opposition with the 'Others' group showing an absolute majority of responses (>50%) with that option.

The final question provided an opportunity for respondents to provide any additional comments or feedback related to the project. A copy of all comments received is attached.

Conclusion

The data received from the survey suggests that the majority of respondents prefer to leave the configuration and layout 'as is'.

In the approved 2026 Capital Budget, funds have been allocated to complete a full reconstruction project on King Street West (\$1,000,000). Preliminary work to date has created conceptual designs for possible configuration changes to King Street.

Given the results of the public consultation and lack of support for significant changes to the down town staff are requesting that Council provide direction for next steps. Staff are recommending that Council approve reducing the scope of work of the project from a full reconstruction/reconfiguration project to include only the following:

- Sidewalk replacements – The sidewalks have been identified through annual inspections as needing replacement

- Water service maintenance – Staff have observed poor condition curb stops during previous repairs on this street. Replacement of existing curb stop boxes while sidewalk is removed is a cost effective way to reduce possibility of future service disruptions and emergency repairs.
- Decorative crosswalks – Council has previously received a request and approved decorative crosswalk installations at Main and King (Film strip concept) and Main and James (Indigenous concept). These crosswalk installations have been paused until King Street construction scope is confirmed.

The estimated cost of the reduced scope will be significantly less than the \$1,000,000 currently budgeted. Staff are currently estimating the reduced scope project to have a budget of \$400,000 pending any further direction from Council. Staff anticipate that pending direction from Council the reduced scope project could be completed in the fall of 2026.

ALTERNATIVES TO CONSIDER

Alternatives Council could consider regarding the King Street West project:

1. Proceed with project as budgeted – Council could decide to implement the One-Way conversion project as budgeted in the 2026 Capital Budget. This option would be contrary to the majority opinion expressed in the results of the extended public consultation.
2. Proceed with project with modified scope – Council could further modify the scope of the King Street West project as it deems appropriate.
3. Do nothing – Council could direct staff to simply not proceed with any King Street project in 2026 and reconsider future projects as part of the 2027 budget process.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

The recommendation is for Council to receive the report and for Council to direct staff to proceed with the reduced scope project as identified within this report.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no direct financial impact associated with this report.

CONSULTATION

Steve McAuley, CAO
Alex Boughen, Licensing and Communications Manager

Attached: King Street West Survey Results Comments