

# Local Improvements 2024

## Questions & Answers



### **Q: What is a local improvement?**

A: Local improvements are construction projects that Council considers to be of greater benefit to a particular local street. The extra revenue received from the Local Improvement rate allows the Town to address more streets per year as Council works to reduce the remaining backlog of open ditch streets in the Town.

The full costs for these improvements are not charged to the property owners, approximately only 14% of the full cost of construction is charged to the property owners benefitting from the improvements.

### **Q: Why do I have to pay this? Shouldn't my property taxes cover this?**

A: Most Local Improvement Capital Projects are funded through property taxes. The local improvement levy represents only a very small portion of the overall cost of the project. The abutting property owners receive the benefit of these improvements through enhanced aesthetics, property values and safety. Because of the significant number of these streets that are eligible for a local improvement, the Town can address them in a timelier fashion through this cost sharing arrangement. Charging the local improvement levy to property owners will ensure the Town is consistent in how it has treated property owners with previous local improvement projects.

### **Q: What gives the Town the right to charge for local improvement on my street?**

A: The New Brunswick *Local Governance Act R.S.N.B. 2018, c. 18*, under Part 12, allows municipalities to undertake the provision of sewerage; sidewalks; roads and streets; or water as a local improvement and recover the cost from the owners of the abutting properties. This approach has been used successfully in recent years to reconstruct and upgrade many streets in the town, including:

<b>Street Name</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Street Name</b>	<b>Year</b>
Deerwood Court	1990	Muncey Drive	1991
Laurentide Drive	1992	Manchester Crescent	1992
Roseberry Street	1996	Traynor Street	1996
Strathmore Avenue	1997	Wedgewood Avenue	1997
Waterfall Drive	2003	Union Street	2003
Athabaska Avenue	2003	Randall Drive	2005

Street Name	Year	Street Name	Year
Irwin Drive	2006	Lindsay Street	2006
Todd Street	2006	Florence Street	2007
Westminister Avenue	2009	Page Street	2009
Whitepine Road	2012	Suffolk Street	2013
Trites Road	2014	Beverly Crescent	2016
Woolridge Street	2016	Hawthorne Drive	2016
Ashburn Avenue	2017	Fatima Drive	2017
Hawkes Street	2017	Olive Street	2017
Prescott Drive	2017	Wentworth Drive (Sussex to Traynor)	2017
Balmoral Street	2018	Bloor Street	2018
Byron Court	2018	Ealey Crescent	2018
Leonard Street Loop	2018	Berkley Drive (Pine Glen to McAllister)	2019
Devere Road (Pine Glen to Montgomery)	2019	Orin Drive	2019
Weir Drive	2019	Cosburn Drive	2020
Hebron Street	2020	Nowlan Drive	2020
Montgomery Avenue (Whitepine to Fairfax)	2021	Toth Street	2021
Montgomery Avenue (Fairfax to Coverdale)	2022	Ridgeway Drive	2022
Birkdale Drive	2023	Darwin Drive	2023
Elmore Court	2023	Inwood Court	2023
Windsor Street	2023		

**Q: What share of the total cost of the work are property owners being asked to cover?**

A: The local improvement revenue collected from property owners represents approximately 14% of the total project cost. The remaining costs are paid for by the Town.

**Q: Why is the Local Improvement program in place?**

A: In the early 1980s the Town of Riverview recognized that many streets needed to be upgraded with curb and gutters, sidewalks, and storm sewers. With so many streets in need of work, property owners would petition the Town to have their street upgraded. To facilitate these upgrades, the Town followed the appropriate legislation which gave it permission to charge property owners a portion of the cost of these upgrades. Through the local improvement process, the Town and property owners cooperate to support efforts that improve neighbourhood assets. The process has evolved to eliminate the need for property owners to petition and the Town now follows a street management plan. Property owners, however, can still voice their objection to a project through a written submission to the Town within a specified deadline.

**Q: How can I voice my opposition to this work?**

A: Upon receiving a “*Notice of Proposed Local Improvement*” from the Town, any property owner who does not agree with the local improvement, should forward their written objections to the Town within the time outlined in the notice. Council will hear these objections at a public hearing, the date and time of which is also outlined in the notice.

**Q: Where can I direct my questions about the project?**

A: Any questions regarding the Local Improvement process can be forwarded to the Town Clerk at [clerk@townofriverview.ca](mailto:clerk@townofriverview.ca) or by calling 506-387-2136. Questions regarding the construction or measurements of your property can be directed to the Engineering Department at [engineering@townofriverview.ca](mailto:engineering@townofriverview.ca) or by calling 506-387-2030.

**Q: If I have concerns during the construction period, how can I address them?**

A: The best way to address any concerns regarding construction is to contact [engineering@townofriverview.ca](mailto:engineering@townofriverview.ca) or call 387-2030 where you will be directed to your street’s local improvement project manager.