

Ile des Chenes amends construction plan

The Carillon

Original article: <https://www.thecarillon.com/local/2024/08/07/ile-des-chenes-amends-construction-plan>

By: Alex Lambert

Published in newspaper: **Aug. 1, 2024**

The RM of Ritchot has not explained why they had to redo some construction work after complaints about new bump outs on Main Street.

Residents had complained about the bump outs which were designed to allow pedestrians safer passage across the street.

The RM refused an interview, but Mayor Chris Ewen did send an email through a communications assistant, although he did not address why the initial design was flawed but approved by council.



ALEX

LAMBERT THE CARILLON – A construction worker fixes a bump-out after people in Ile-des-Chenes complained the new layout of Main Street was too narrow.

According to Ewen, the RM has gotten 31 complaints for service requests on fixing the width of Main Street.

The road, which used to be four lanes from Dumaine Road North for about 400 metres with a boulevard splitting north and southbound traffic is now getting bump outs on both sides.

The bump outs, which cut into the outer lanes, were added to make it safer for pedestrians to cross the street, now only needing to cross two lanes instead of four.

The problem for a lot of residents is that the bump outs don't just cut out one lane, but cut into another lane as well, with large vehicles barely squeezing by.

The cuts were originally made to leave 10'8" for vehicles, but are being widened to 12 feet. For reference, ambulances are normally 7'11" in width.

"Although the original bump outs were (smaller), the construction/public works/engineering team made the decision to widen them slightly to 12 feet to ensure a bit more space for larger vehicles and emergency vehicles," Ewen said in the email.

He also said that the design was made with full public consultation back in 2017. Bike lanes, sidewalks and safer crosswalks were things that the community had been wanting for years, and introducing the bump outs helps with that.

The design was made by HTFC Planning and Design. Ewen said work is nearing completion.