For Immediate Release
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New King Street design to be extended to City Hall side of College and Young Streets

KITCHENER – Downtown Kitchener's ongoing transformation into a more pedestrian friendly environment will take another step forward in the weeks ahead as construction begins to extend elements of the new King Street design onto the city hall side of College and Young Streets.

This extension of the new, modern King Street design is possible through a previously announced injection of $1.23 million from the federal government's Community Adjustment Fund.

Elements from the new King Street design such as planter beds, street trees, street lights, benches, bollards, bike racks and paving stones will be extended along the city hall side of College Street from King to Duke and along the city hall side of Young Street from King to the City Hall parking garage.

"The look, feel and functionality of the new King Street design truly separates downtown Kitchener apart from other Ontario municipalities," noted Mayor Carl Zehr. "We are fortunate to have a partner in the federal government who sees the value in this visionary project and is prepared to make an investment in the future of our downtown."

Starting November 20, Young and College Streets will be closed to through traffic at King Street. Local access will be permitted from Duke Street to the parking garage at city hall, the Centre Block parking lot and the parking lot behind Shoppers Drugmart. Pedestrian access along both College and Young Streets will be maintained throughout this construction.

Construction on College and Young streets is anticipated to continue through March 2010.

"As Member of Parliament for Kitchener Centre, I was really pleased that the Government of Canada is helping to revitalize downtown Kitchener. I am very happy that, working with the City of Kitchener, we are generating jobs for our community after just a few short months," said Stephen Woodworth, MP.

In addition to extending the new King Street design onto College and Young Streets, the federal government's investment has already allowed the city to make additional enhancements to King Street, such as: improved lighting and more street trees, benches and bicycle racks. The federal funding will also fund new winter decorations for the downtown area and new furnishings for Civic Square, in front of City Hall.

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