

### Section I – Items for Authority Action

**TO:** Chair and Members of the Authority  
Meeting #7/18, Friday, September 28, 2018

**FROM:** Chandra Sharma, Director, Watershed Strategies

**RE:** **THE MEADOWAY PROJECT**  
Update and Authorization to Proceed with Key Priorities in Collaboration with the The Living City Foundation, W. Garfield Weston Foundation, City of Toronto and Hydro One

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#### KEY ISSUE

Update on The Meadoway and authorization to advance implementation of key priorities.

#### RECOMMENDATION

**WHEREAS** Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and The Living City Foundation (LCF) have committed to revitalize a 16 linear kilometre, 200 hectare transmission corridor into The Meadoway, which will provide a vital east-west linkage between downtown Toronto and Rouge National Urban Park and become one of the largest urban linear greenspaces in Canada, with a connected multiuse trail, restored meadow habitat and other enhancements that will be determined in consultation with the community and our partners;

**WHEREAS** The W. Garfield Weston Foundation announced on April 11, 2018, a potential pledge of up to \$25 million to support The Meadoway, subject to obtaining additional funding approvals from donors including senior levels of government;

**WHEREAS** The W. Garfield Weston Foundation has made \$10 million of the \$25 million pledge available immediately to TRCA to implement Phase 1 of the project;

**WHEREAS** the City of Toronto has committed \$6.3 million in capital funding to realize the shared vision for The Meadoway by supporting the first phase of multi-use trail infrastructure, and the City's ongoing operations and maintenance activities within the and around the corridor;

**THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT** with appropriate Board Authority approvals including purchasing approvals, authorized TRCA and LCF officials be directed to take all necessary actions regarding retaining consulting services, the hiring of contract staff including project managers, and the signing and execution of any service agreements within the limit of the confirmed approved funding agreement for Phase 1;

**THAT** staff continue to work with The Living City Foundation to support fundraising efforts in support of The Meadoway;

**THAT** bi-annual progress reports be provided via the project Steering Committee to project partners and funding supporters;

**THAT** updates be brought back to the Authority on an annual basis as implementation of the project proceeds;

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**AND FURTHER THAT staff be authorized to investigate the potential for similar corridor revitalization opportunities in TRCA's jurisdiction as these are presented through municipal partners and stakeholders while maintaining a focus on successful delivery of Phase 1 of the project.**

### **BACKGROUND**

Led by Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and The Living City Foundation (LCF) in partnership with the City of Toronto and The W. Garfield Weston Foundation, The Meadoway is transforming 16 linear kilometres of transmission corridor in Scarborough into one of the largest urban linear greenspaces in Canada.

Formerly known as the Gatineau Hydro Corridor Revitalization, The Meadoway will provide a green, active, east-west link between downtown Toronto and Rouge National Urban Park, while connecting greenspaces across Scarborough and providing other enhancements that will benefit the community.

The creation of a system that includes high-functioning meadow habitat on a scale never before seen in Toronto, combined with the development of active transportation connections, will help promote low carbon alternatives for the thousands of Torontonians who commute daily in Scarborough.

Toronto is home to some of Canada's most incredible urban parks, from High Park to Morningside Park. While these natural areas have well-established north-south connections, they lack the east-west connections that are required to effectively establish a connected natural system that is vital to the future of sustainable city building in the Toronto region. At over 200 hectares and 16 linear kilometres, The Meadoway will provide a vital east-west linkage between the Don River ravine and Rouge National Urban Park supporting the City of Toronto's Ravine Strategy (2017).

The Meadoway will also become a key segment of Toronto's cycling network, supporting overall cycling infrastructure and building a connected link between the East Don Trail and Rouge National Urban Park. It provides an opportunity to transform the relationship between the built structure of an urban area and the natural spaces that are vital to the overall health of the system.

The completion of a connected active transportation network builds on the work that the City of Toronto has undertaken to construct almost 10km of multi-use trail through the transmission corridor, along with signalization at some major intersections. This work has also included the installation of waste management stations, entrance features and traffic management strategies at additional intersections and cross streets.

To assess the viability of a transformational idea like The Meadoway, two revitalization pilot projects were completed by TRCA between 2012 and 2017 with funding support from The W. Garfield Weston Foundation. The first of these pilot projects, The Scarborough Centre Butterfly Trail, has been widely recognized as one of the most successful revitalization projects in Toronto. This pilot project transformed a 3.5 kilometre section of the corridor into a naturalized habitat, an active transportation route, and a beautiful wildflower meadow which has been well supported and well utilized by community members. The success of the Scarborough Centre Butterfly Trail showcases the immense potential of The Meadoway.

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On April 11, 2018, City of Toronto Mayor John Tory along with the directors of The W. Garfield Weston Foundation, and representatives from TRCA and The Living City Foundation jointly announced The Meadoway at a ceremony in Scarborough. As part of this announcement The W. Garfield Weston Foundation announced a pledge up to \$25 million to support the project as it evolves over the coming years, subject to obtain funding from other donors and partners including senior levels of government. A firm commitment of \$10 million was made available immediately by The W. Garfield Weston Foundation to TRCA formalized through an executed agreement. The project has a total proposed budget of \$85 million, with nearly 40% pledged to date.

At Authority Meeting #4/18, held on May 25, 2018, an update to the recently announced funding for The Meadoway was provided, with Resolution #A70/18 approved as follows:

*THAT The Living City Foundation's (LCF) 2018 budget be approved by the Authority;*

*AND FURTHER THAT information on 2018 funding allocations for the Meadoway project be received.*

### **RATIONALE**

With over 500 kilometres and 1,600 hectares of transmission corridors in the Toronto region, The Meadoway represents the first phase of what can become a world-class example of linear corridor revitalization. The expansion of The Meadoway concept throughout the Toronto region would not only assist TRCA and its municipal partners achieve the TRCA Regional Trails Strategy and associated Living City Strategic Plan objectives, it also has the potential to create an integrated network of urban linear parks systems that could surpass that of any found elsewhere in the world.

Through the development of new partnerships, a collaborative project team, community engagement and a sound funding strategy, The Meadoway will showcase a new reality for environmental collaboration and will redefine the meaning of a community connected through conservation.

### **FINANCIAL DETAILS**

The project has a total proposed budget of \$85 million. The W. Garfield Weston Foundation has made a pledge up to \$25 million to support the project as it evolves over the coming years, with a firm commitment of \$10 million available immediately. An agreement between TRCA has been signed for the delivery of Phase 1 of this project. As part of this Phase 1 work, The City of Toronto has committed \$6.3 million in its capital budget and plan for the first phase of infrastructure investments that will help to realize the shared vision for The Meadoway by supporting the trail and cycling infrastructure, and continuing responsibilities for ongoing operations and maintenance of City infrastructure in the corridor.

### **DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE**

While the project will involve multiple TRCA and City of Toronto divisions overall project oversight will rest with TRCA's Project Management Office. A governance model has been prepared and reviewed with funding partners to ensure appropriate communications, decision-making, controls, and ultimately the project's success.

The following outlines a list of the immediate next steps for The Meadoway:

- a. Launch The Meadoway Steering Committee and (as required) Technical Advisory Committees made up of key stakeholders and funding partners to guide project implementation;

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- b. Initiate a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) and detailed design process for a multi-use trail network;
- c. Manage the existing meadow habitats along with creation of approximately 40 hectares of new habitat;
- d. Complete an initial community mapping exercise involving the non-governmental organization Park People, an organization that supports and mobilizes people to activate the power of parks to improve the quality of life in Canadian cities;
- e. Procure consulting services to develop and support an engagement strategy, public relations and communications strategy, and the completion of a conceptual illustrative plan for The Meadoway; and
- f. Work with The Living City Foundation to develop and launch a fundraising campaign.

### Key Project Activities (2018-2020)

#### Engagement, Education, Communications and Fundraising:

- Complete artistic renderings and conceptual illustrations as part of a conceptual illustrative plan for The Meadoway.
- Complete an engagement strategy, and a communications and public relations strategy.
- Complete a fundraising strategy, by The Living City Foundation, for a multi-million-dollar campaign between 2019 and 2025. Achieving this goal is dependent in large part upon the contributions and support from all three levels of government.
- Complete a community mapping exercise to collect baseline data for the communities around The Meadoway.
- Implement recommendations of the engagement strategy and the communications and public relations strategy.
- Launch and monitor a community leadership group.
- Launch of a communications and public relations campaign.

#### Active Transportation Network:

- Complete a Baseline Environmental Inventory including Terrestrial Biological Inventory and Stage 1 Archaeological assessment.
- Complete a Municipal Class EA for the Active Transportation network which integrates meadow restoration opportunities.
- Undertake all mandated public consultation for EA in coordination with engagement efforts of the overall project.
- Detailed design of the trail ready for issue of construction tender documents.
- Secure all necessary agreements, permits and approval for implementation of the trail and meadow habitat.
- Design and implement the East Don Trail gateway.

#### Restoration and Monitoring:

- Implement 40 ha of meadow habitat.
- Maintain for 80 ha of meadow habitat.

#### Project Governance

- Establish a Steering Committee and Technical Advisory Committees made up of key stakeholders and funding partners to guide project implementation.

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### Key Project Milestones (2018-2020)

Engagement, Education and Communications	Target Date (MM-YY)
The Meadoway Community Mapping Exercise	06-18 to 10-18
Interim Engagement Program	06-18 to 03-19
Community Leadership Group Planning	10-18 to 03-19
The Meadoway website update	11-18 to 01-19
Artistic Renderings and Conceptual Illustrative Plans	11-18 to 03-19
Develop The Meadoway Engagement Strategy	11-18 to 03-19
Develop a Communications and Public Relations Strategy	11-18 to 03-19
Implement Recommendations of the Engagement Strategy	03-19 to 12-20
Implement Recommendations of the Communications and Public Relations Strategy	03-19 to 12-20

Fundraising Strategy	Target Date (MM-YY)
Complete Prospect Research	08-18 to 12-18
Create Revenue Strategy	08-18 to 12-18
Establish Campaign Policies	08-18 to 12-18
Establish Campaign Cabinet	10-18 to 12-18
Review Table of Gifts	10-18 to 12-18
Establish Campaign Subcommittees	01-19 to 03-19
Outline Campaign timeline	01-19 to 03-19
Assemble Campaign Cabinet	01-19 to 03-19
Develop Case for Support	01-19 to 06-19
Write Proposal Copy	01-19 to 06-19
Identify and enlist volunteers	03-19 to 06-19
Begin the Donor Solicitation process	03-19 to 06-19

Active Transportation Network	Target Date (MM-YY)
Complete of baseline environmental reporting	10-18
Initiate Municipal Class EA	10-18
Undertake public consultation at key EA milestones	10-18 to 06-19
Identify and evaluate Alternatives (trail)	11-18
Select and refinement of Preferred Alternative	01-19
Complete and submit the Municipal Class EA	06-19
Begin Detailed Design of the trail	08-19
Secure all necessary permits and approvals for implementation	01-20
Implement the East Don Gateway	05-20
Implement the trail as per recommendations in the EA (phasing and scheduling subject to funding securement)	2021

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<b>Restoration and Monitoring</b>	<b>Target Date (MM-YY)</b>
The Meadoway monitoring pre/post meadow development 80ha	05-18 to 10-18
Existing meadow - Scarborough Centre Butterfly Trail 40ha maintenance	04-18 to 11-18
Existing meadow - Scarborough Centre Butterfly Trail 40ha invasive species management	06-18 to 09-18
Hydro One Networks Inc. (HONI) and City approval/agreement aligned for meadow design	09-18
Existing meadow - Scarborough Centre Butterfly Trail 40ha maintenance	04-18 to 11-18
40ha of meadow site prep (mow till, cover crop, spray)	05-19 to 08-19
The Meadoway monitoring 40ha	05-19 to 10-19
Meadow buffer mowing	05-19 to 10-19
Existing meadow - Scarborough Centre Butterfly Trail 40ha invasive species management	06-19 to 09-19
Existing meadow - invasive species management (40ha)	06-19 to 08-19
Signage deployment on Site 3 and 4	05-19 to 10-19
Community Garbage Cleanup along The Meadoway	04-20
Existing meadow - Scarborough Centre Butterfly Trail 40ha maintenance	04-20 to 11-20
40ha of meadow site prep (mow till, cover crop, spray))	05-20
Meadow buffer mowing 80ha	05-20 to 10-20
The Meadoway monitoring 40ha	05-20 to 10-20
Existing meadow - Scarborough Centre Butterfly Trail 40ha invasive species management	06-20 to 09-20
40ha of meadow native seeding	06-20
Invasive species, management on existing meadow and newly established meadow	06-20 to 08-20
Maintenance mowing on 40ha newly established meadow	08-20

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