

Item 9.5.

Section III – Items for the Information of the Board

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors
Meeting #5/19, Friday, May 24, 2019

FROM: Michael Tolensky, Chief Financial and Operating Officer

RE: EASTERN AND BROADVIEW FLOOD PROTECTION DUE DILIGENCE AND MUNICIPAL CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
Update on Results of Studies

KEY ISSUE

An update on the results of the Due Diligence Study and Class Environmental Assessment for the Eastern and Broadview Flood Protection as directed at Authority Meeting #5/17, held on June 23, 2017, Resolution #A104/17.

RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS the Stage 1 Due Diligence Study in support of the Eastern and Broadview Flood Protection Project (hereafter referred to as the Broadview and Eastern Flood Protection Project) was completed;

AND WHEREAS TRCA staff were directed to update the Board of Directors with the results of the Stage 1 Due Diligence phase;

THEREFORE IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the report on the update of the Broadview and Eastern Flood Protection (BEFP) be received.

BACKGROUND

At Authority Meeting #5/17, held on June 23, 2017, Resolution #A104/17 was approved in part as follows:

WHEREAS Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation (TWRC) and the City of Toronto received approvals from the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) for the Don Mouth Naturalization and Port Lands Flood Protection Project Environmental Assessment (DMNP EA) in December 2014;

WHEREAS approximately 8 ha of urban lands north of the elevated Metrolinx railway embankment will remain within the Regulatory Floodplain following implementation of the DMNP EA;

WHEREAS the City of Toronto and TWRC have requested that TRCA lead a Due Diligence and Class Environmental Assessment (EA) Study, which will be undertaken to identify a flood protection solution to remove the remaining flood risk to these 8 ha of urban land north of the elevated Metrolinx railway embankment;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT TRCA enter into a Delivery Agreement with TWRC to undertake the Due Diligence and Class EA studies;

AND FURTHER THAT TRCA staff report back to the Authority with the results of the Stage 1 – Due Diligence and Stage – 2 Class EA phases of the Project.

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RATIONALE

As directed in 2017, TRCA staff completed a Due Diligence Study for the BEFP which explored potential flood protection options that may be able to remove the flood risk to this 8 ha area (Figure 1). Preliminary modeling indicated that a solution that removes the flood risk is possible. Based on these preliminary results, the City of Toronto directed the project team to formally commence the Class Environmental Assessment phase of the project. A Notice of Commencement was published on September 20, 2018, and the project team has since been working through the Class EA process.

Planning for a preferred alternative for the BEFP project has required continued engagement with a variety of stakeholders who are undertaking, or planning to undertake, projects within the BEFP EA study area. The other projects occurring or being planned for within the study area include the Toronto Transit Commission Relief Line South Broadview Station, Metrolinx East Harbour Station, City of Toronto Broadview Avenue Extension, City of Toronto Coxwell Bypass Tunnel, and the Enbridge 30" gas pipeline relocation.

Additional coordination with projects occurring to the south of the BEFP study area has also been considered as part of the planning. This coordination has ensured that the BEFP preferred alternative will be compatible with both the Port Lands Flood Protection (PLFP) Project being undertaken by Waterfront Toronto (TWRC), and the East Harbour development, currently being planned by First Gulf. Integration with the PLFP has been particularly critical as the BEFP, if implemented, will eliminate the need for two planned flood protection measures currently in the scope of the PLFP Project.

In consultation with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, the following First Nations were notified of the commencement of the BEFP EA: Mississaugas of the New Credit, the Huron Wendat Nation, and the Williams Treaties First Nations (Beausoleil First Nation, Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation, Chippewas of Rama First Nation, Curve Lake First Nation, Hiawatha First Nation, Mississaugas of Alderville First Nation and Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation). These First Nations will continue to receive project updates and invitations to BEFP public information centers (PIC).

To date, the project team has engaged the public through various meetings including two community liaison committee meetings (CLC) held on November 6, 2018, and March 19 2019 and a PIC held on December 5, 2018. A second PIC occurred on May 7, 2019. The information presented at the first CLC and the PIC included: the problem and opportunity statements for the Broadview and Eastern Flood Protection Project; the various alternatives being considered for flood protection; and an outline of the evaluation criteria that will be used to select the preferred alternative. A variety of members of the public and stakeholders attended the first public information center including Peter Tabuns, Member of Provincial Parliament for the area, and a representative from the office of Julie Dabrusin, Member of Parliament for the area. Overall, the information presented at the meeting was well received. All PIC material is available on the project website: www.trca.ca/befp.

Based on feedback received, and the evaluation of the various options, the project team has developed a preliminary preferred alternative for a flood protection landform to provide flood protection in this area (Figure 2). This preliminary preferred alternative was presented to the CLC at the March 19, 2019 meeting and was presented at the PIC on May 7, 2019.

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Relationship to Building the Living City, the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan

This report supports the following strategies set forth in the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan:

Strategy 2 – Manage our regional water resources for current and future generations

Strategy 4 – Create complete communities that integrate nature and the built environment

Strategy 7 – Build partnerships and new business models

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Funding for the Due Diligence and EA is available through a delivery agreement with TWRC within account 191-71.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

The project team is continuing to follow the phases of a Municipal Class EA (Schedule C) process. Public engagement and stakeholder consultation activities are ongoing, particularly with representatives from agencies undertaking planning for other projects occurring within the study area. Following the final PIC, and once public input has been incorporated into the preferred alternative, it is anticipated that the Environmental Study Report for the BEFP EA will be prepared in the second quarter of 2019. Prior to filing the ESR, City of Toronto Staff will report to Toronto City Council on the preferred alternative. Subject to council endorsement, TRCA will then finalize and file the ESR. The details and timing of the Council reporting process are currently being discussed with City Staff.

While the detailed design and implementation of this project is currently not funded, the City of Toronto applied for funding to implement the project through the Federal Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund. The results of this funding application are anticipated to be made public later in the spring of 2019.

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Attachments: 2

Attachment 1: BEFP Project Study Area

Attachment 2: BEFP Flood Protection Landform Preferred Alternative