

Section I – Items for Board of Directors Action

TO: Chair and Members of the Executive Committee
Meeting #11/19, Friday, February 07, 2020

FROM: Sameer Dhalla, Director, Development and Engineering Services

RE: **VOLUNTARY PROJECT REVIEW**
Works Undertaken by Organizations Exempt from Ontario Regulation 166/06, As Amended

KEY ISSUE

Summary report on the Voluntary Project Review of works undertaken by organizations exempt from Ontario Regulation 166/06, as amended – Regulation of Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses, through Voluntary Project Review letters issued during 2018.

RECOMMENDATION

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT the summary report on the Voluntary Project Review be received;

AND FURTHER THAT Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) staff be directed to continue to work with Crown corporations undertaking environmental assessments for infrastructure projects who are exempt from permits under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* to ensure that the five tests of Ontario Regulation 166/06, as amended, control of flooding, erosion, pollution, conservation of land and dynamic beaches, are addressed during the detailed design stage of these projects.

BACKGROUND

In 2014, the TRCA fee schedule provided an option for Crown corporations including provincial and federal agencies, railways, and radio communication and broadcasting antenna system providers to apply for Voluntary Project Review (VPR). These organizations are exempt from the *Conservation Authorities Act* Section 28 regulatory approval process and permits are not required. In the absence of the formal permitting process, TRCA has developed a process whereby the party may voluntarily request TRCA to review and comment on detailed design activities to confirm that TRCA policies and procedures are being addressed. Once TRCA concerns are satisfied, a Voluntary Project Review Letter is provided by TRCA staff at the design stage confirming TRCA objectives and requirements have been satisfied as set out in The Living City Policies and Ontario Regulation 166/06, as amended.

TRCA has worked with multiple user groups in the environmental assessment and detailed design review of various projects. To date, Metrolinx has made a commitment to ensure that TRCA review of project details at the environmental assessment, pre-design and VPR stages are completed in a streamlined and expeditious manner. TRCA has worked with Metrolinx in the review of multiple projects related to both Metrolinx GO and Lightrail Transit (LRT) projects and issued ten (10) VPR letters.

TRCA staff reviewed the projects listed below and ensured that mitigation measures included in the design and construction plans address policy and technical concerns related to flood and erosion controls, protection and restoration of natural heritage features, and erosion and

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sediment controls. All projects were related to Metrolinx GO and Metrolinx Rapid Transit projects, as supported by service level agreements between TRCA and Metrolinx. Metrolinx has ensured that the public-private consortiums commissioned to undertake the detailed design of these projects are required to obtain the TRCA VPR letter prior to construction. As such, in 2020, TRCA will continue to review design details for Metrolinx's Lakeshore, Barrie and Stouffville GO track and station expansions, SmartTrack stations, as well as the Eglinton and Finch LRTs. Staff continues to advocate the VPR process to other Crown corporations, including both the Ministry of Transportation (and their public-private consortiums) and Parks Canada.

SUMMARY OF RECENT VOLUNTARY PROJECT REVIEW PROJECTS

1. CFN 60248 – West Don River Bridge Improvements, Eglinton Avenue East, west of Leslie Street – issued on January 11, 2019 (ECLRT)

The purpose of the project was to undertake the rehabilitation of an existing bridge over West Don River, on Eglinton Avenue East, west of Leslie Street, in the City of Toronto. The proposed construction activities also involved the replacement and rehabilitation of all components of the bridge structure. The purpose of this project was to prepare the site in advance of the construction of the guideway for the future Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit (ECLRT) on Eglinton Avenue East.

The site is located on property owned by the City of Toronto for the ECLRT and in the Don River Watershed

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2. CFN 59817 – Massey Creek Culvert Replacement, Eglinton Avenue East, between Birchmount Road and Ionview Road - issued on March 19, 2019 (ECLRT)

This purpose was to undertake the replacement of an existing culvert at Taylor Massey Creek, on Eglinton Avenue East, between Birchmount Road and Ionview Road, in the City of Toronto. The purpose of this project was to prepare the site in advance of the construction of the guideway for the future ECLRT on Eglinton Avenue East.

The site is located on property owned by the City of Toronto for the Eglinton Crosstown LRT and in the Don River Watershed.

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3. CFN – 57545 – Grubbing and Earthworks along the Northeast Ravine slopes, west of Black Creek Drive and north of Eglinton Avenue West - issued on March 29, 2019 (ECLRT)

The purpose of the project was to undertake grubbing and earthwork activities at the Northeast Ravine located west of Black Creek Drive, north of Eglinton Avenue West, in the City of Toronto. The proposed works were undertaken in order to provide capping to address historical contamination of the existing slopes.

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The site is located on the property owned by the City of Toronto for the ECLRT project and in the Humber River Watershed.

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4. CFN 60643 – West Guideway and Portal – Toronto Hydro Enhancement Works – Eglinton Avenue West, between Black Creek Drive and Municipal Drive – issued on April 12, 2019 (ECLRT)

The purpose of the project was the construction of hydro ducts and chambers on Eglinton Avenue West, from Black Creek Drive to Municipal Drive, in the City of Toronto. The proposed works were undertaken in order to power to the future Traction Power Sub Station 1 (TPSS 1) at the ECLRT Mount Dennis Station.

The site is located on the property owned by the City of Toronto for the Eglinton Crosstown LRT project and in the Humber River Watershed.

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5. CFN 57580 – At-Grade works on Eglinton Avenue East at the East Don River between the Don Valley Parkway Interchange and Credit Union/Swift Drive for Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit (ECLRT) – issued on July 17, 2019

The purpose of the project was to revise the location of the Traction Power Substation (TPSS # 9) 75 m west of the original location between Credit Union Drive and the East Don River, in the City of Toronto. The proposed works involved the construction of the new building on the south side of the roadway to accommodate and house the traction power substation equipment.

The site is located on the property owned by the City of Toronto for the ECLRT project and in the Don River Watershed.

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6. CFN 61801 – At-Grade Works – construction of a new retaining wall (RW 1195L) west of the East Don River Bridge on the north side of Eglinton Avenue East between the Don Valley Parkway (DVP) Interchange and Credit Union/Swift Drive for Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit (ECLRT) – issued on July 31, 2019

The purpose of the project was to undertake the construction of a new retaining wall west of the East Don River Bridge on the north side of Eglinton Avenue East, between the East Don River and the exit ramp to Wynford Drive, in the City of Toronto. The proposed works involve preparation works prior to construction of the retaining wall including construction of the foundation, placement of mesa blocks and drainage stones and installation of two types of geogrid. Construction of the proposed retaining wall is required to facilitate and enable the widening of Eglinton Avenue East in order to accommodate the ECLRT.

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The site is located on property owned by the City of Toronto for the Eglinton Crosstown LRT project and in the Don River Watershed.

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7. CFN 61235 – Capping and Ecological Restoration for the for the Northeast, Southeast, and Permeable Reactive Barrier (PRB) Ravine Slopes, at the Eglinton Maintenance and Storage Facility (EMSF) located at 3500 Eglinton Avenue West for Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit (ECLRT) – issued July 31, 2019

The purpose of the project was to undertake the capping and ecological restoration activities on the northeast and southeast ravine slopes and the area where the Permeable Reactive Barrier (PRB) was installed at the Eglinton Maintenance and Storage Facility (EMSF) located at 3500 Eglinton Avenue West, in the City of Toronto. The proposed works involve capping of the slopes followed by ecological restoration in order to establish a self-sustaining deciduous forest.

The site is located on property owned by Metrolinx and the City of Toronto for the ECLRT project and is located in the Humber River watershed.

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8. CFN 61611 – Construction of a new retaining wall (RW 1173R) at the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) underpass located east of Leslie Street on Eglinton Avenue East for Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit (ECLRT) – issued August 19, 2019

The purpose of the project was to undertake the construction of a new retaining wall under the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) underpass located along the at-grade portion of the ECLRT alignment on Eglinton Avenue East, in the City of Toronto. The proposed work is required to allow for the necessary widening of Eglinton Avenue East and to accommodate the construction of a proposed Multi-Use-Path.

The site is located on property owned by the City of Toronto for the ECLRT project and CP Rail in the Don River Watershed.

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9. CFN 61612 – Pre-Construction Test Pit Investigation at Black Creek Tributary (near Tobermory Culvert), north on Finch Avenue West between Driftwood Avenue and Tobermory Drive for Finch West Light Rail Transit (FWLRT) - issued on September 13, 2019

The purpose of the project was to undertake test pit investigation works, on the north side of Finch Avenue West between Driftwood Avenue and Tobermory Drive, in the City of Toronto. The work is required to obtain depth of cover information for an existing 1500mm watermain located below the Tobermory Culvert in order to avoid construction conflicts for the proposed future replacement of the Tobermory culvert. The proposed works involve construction of a test pit 2.5 m in length, 1.2 m

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wide and approximately 3 m deep with aluminium trench box shoring. Once the measurements of the depth are attained, the vacuumed hole and test pit will be backfilled.

The site is located on the property owned by York Condominium Corporation #350 and in the Humber River Watershed.

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10. CFN 62033 – Preparatory Activities – Highway 27 South of Humber College Boulevard for Finch West Light Rail Transit (FWLRT) – issued on December 6, 2019

The purpose of this project was to undertake preparatory activities for the future construction of the Finch West Light Rail Transit (FWLRT) Humber College Stop along Highway 27 south of Humber College Boulevard, in the City of Toronto. The proposed works involve the installation of erosion and sediment control measures, vegetation clearing, temporary power pole installations for on-site works, and Toronto Hydro Electric System Limited (THESL) pole removals and relocations. These works are required to accommodate the future construction of the Humber College Stop, the widening of Highway 27, the construction of a future Traction Power Substation (TPSS), and the construction of a new access road.

The works will take place on the property owned by the City of Toronto and the Humber College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning.

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FINANCIAL DETAILS

The review was paid for through the terms of the service level agreements with Metrolinx GO and Metrolinx RT.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

1. Staff will continue to advocate the importance and benefits of receiving TRCA permits at the detailed design stage to other organizations exempt from the *Conservation Authorities Act* Section 28 regulatory approval process, as appropriate.
2. Staff will provide a summary report on issued VPR letters to the Executive Committee on an annual basis.

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Date: January 13, 2020