

Section I – Items for Board of Directors Action

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors
Meeting #3/20, Friday, April 24, 2020

FROM: Moranne McDonnell, Director, Restoration and Infrastructure

RE: **CENTENNIAL COLLEGE PROGRESS CAMPUS-MILITARY TRAIL ROAD
MULTI-USE TRAIL**

KEY ISSUE

Staff report on the Member Motion regarding the progress on restoration of connections and bridges between the Centennial College Progress Campus and Military Trail Road to create a multi-use trail including the funding required for the project.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT this report on the status to restore connections and bridges between the Centennial College Progress Campus and Military Trail Road to create a multi-use trail including the funding required for the project be received;

AND FURTHER THAT staff work with the City of Toronto on this project once it is identified in a City of Toronto capital plan.

BACKGROUND

TRCA has been in discussion with the City of Toronto regarding the opportunity to create a multi-use trail in the greenspace of the Highland Creek ravine between the Centennial College Progress Campus and Military Trail Road in Scarborough (see Attachment 1). The area includes steep-sloped valleys and is bordered by residential development in the surrounding tablelands. The land is owned by Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and managed by the City of Toronto.

The area has an existing trailhead, and a significant amount of capital infrastructure including; a water access easement, sanitary sewer crossings, revetments, weirs, bed controls, outfalls, manholes and retaining walls. The City of Toronto's preliminary feasibility assessment has identified that at least two bridges would be required to cross the Highland Creek in support of a trail connection.

At the City of Toronto's Public Works and Infrastructure Committee meeting #25/17, held on November 29, 2017, Item 25.14 was referred to the Budget Committee for consideration in the 2018 budget process as follows:

That City Council request the General Manager, Transportation Services, and the Acting Chief Financial Officer, to include funding to commence the work to complete the Military Trail Multi-Use Trail to Centennial College Progress Campus for consideration in the 2018 budget process with other City priorities.

That the General Manager of Transportation Services work in consultation with TRCA and Parks, Forestry and Recreation to commence the work and restore connections and bridges between the Centennial College Progress Campus and Military Trail Road.

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An update on this proposed project was provided in [Attachment 10](#) of the City of Toronto's Cycling Network Plan Update as received by City Council at Meeting #9/19, held on July 16 – 18, 2019. The report indicated that the City Toronto's Transportation Services, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, and Toronto Water would review this as a future project, but that there are several higher priority projects to be completed in the area.

At Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's (TRCA) Executive Committee Meeting #11/19, held on February 7, 2020, Resolution #B150/19 was approved as follows:

THAT the Toronto Region Conservation Authority include funding to plan for the design and implementation process to complete a Military Trail Multi-Use Trail to Centennial College Progress Campus in the 2020 budget process;

AND FURTHER THAT Toronto Region Conservation Authority staff report back to the Board of Directors at the scheduled April 24, 2020 Board of Directors meeting on the progress to restore connections and bridges between the Centennial College Progress Campus and Military Trail Road to create a multi-use trail including the funding required for the project.

RATIONALE

The Highland Creek ravine between the Centennial College Progress Campus and Military Trail Road is owned by Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), however it is managed by the City of Toronto under the 1972 land management agreements. Therefore, all management and development costs of this land, including trail management and development, are the responsibility of the City of Toronto. Accordingly, TRCA has not assigned any budget to the development of a multi-use trail connection in the area of interest.

This proposed connection is not identified in TRCA's Trail Strategy for the Greater Toronto Region (Trail Strategy) because it is not classified as a regional trail based on the definition within the Trail Strategy. It is also not part of The Loop Trail concept identified as part of implementing the City of Toronto's Ravine Strategy. TRCA does recognize that the proposed trail would be a connector to the regional trail network as it facilitates connection to the multi-use trail in The Meadoway.

TRCA staff is working actively with City of Toronto staff to coordinate trail development and improvement projects in support of the Trail Strategy and City of Toronto priorities. Staff has reached out to the City of Toronto regarding the Military Trail Multi-Use Trail, and have indicated the following:

- This area is outside of the key actions and recommendations required to implement the Ravine Strategy over the next 10 years
- Other large trail initiatives such as The Meadoway and Upper Highland Creek Trail will provide a more direct connection to this local trail
- Preliminary feasibility of this proposed connection to Centennial College has indicated that at least two bridges may be required, some of them significant in size, crossing the Highland Creek
- This is a very challenging project, with a very high cost and it may not even be able to facilitate the minimum standards of a multi-use for both pedestrians and cyclists

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- There are no current capital plans to develop a trail at this location in City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation or Transportation Services budgets.

Based on consultations with City of Toronto staff and given the significant and costly infrastructure that this project would require, TRCA staff believe that planning for this project at this time is premature and should be deferred until such time as the project is identified in a City of Toronto capital plan or special project.

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

This report supports the following strategy set forth in the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan:
Strategy 4 – Create complete communities that integrate nature and the built environment

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Any TRCA work associated with the development of a multi-use trail connection in the area of interest will be on a fee-for-service basis under the existing Master Service Agreement with the City of Toronto.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

- In support of the Trail Strategy, TRCA will continue to meet with the City of Toronto to coordinate trail project implementation plans, seek opportunities for partnership, secure land and easements, and address trail ownership and management.

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Date: March 12, 2020

Attachments: 1

Attachment 1: Centennial College Progress Campus to Military Trail Conceptual Pedestrian Connection