Section III - Items for the Information of the Board

TO: Chair and Members of the Executive Committee

Friday, February 05, 2021 Meeting

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 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS TRCA staff conducts Voluntary Project Reviews for partner agencies, ministries of the crown and utilities;

AND WHEREAS such Voluntary Project Reviews help to assess and mitigate negative ecological impacts, create certainty for infrastructure proponents and fulfill Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's obligations under Memorandums of Understanding and Service Level Agreements;

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the summary report on the Voluntary Project Review of works undertaken for ministries, agencies and utilities exempt from Ontario Regulation 166/06 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* be received.

BACKGROUND

In 2014, the TRCA fee schedule provided an option for government ministries and 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, and to help ministries and government agencies reduce risk and better protect the natural environment, 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 seventeen (17) VPR letters. Furthermore, TRCA also worked with Trans-Northern Pipelines Inc. and the Regional Municipality of York to issue one (1) VPR letter each on lands

owned by Parks Canada in the Rouge National Urban Park. A total of nineteen (19) VPR letters were issued through 2020.

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 sediment controls. The majority of the 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 2021, 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 for the VPR process to be utilized by other ministries and Crown corporations, including both the Ministry of Transportation (and their public-private consortiums) and Parks Canada. In terms of Rouge National Urban Park, TRCA has successfully worked with the proponents and Parks Canada to ensure our regulatory objectives as per Ontario Regulation 166/06 were achieved. As projects on Parks Canada lands are not subject to the TRCA regulation through a partnership approach it was agreed that a VPR letter would be issued.

SUMMARY OF 2020 VOLUNTARY PROJECT REVIEW PROJECTS

Finch West Light Rail Transit (FWLRT) - MOSIAC (Metrolinx)

 CFN 62033 – Wet Utility Installation, Road Removals, and Storage Tank Installation at Black Creek on Finch Avenue West, Toronto – Finch West Light Rail Transit Project – issued on May 1, 2020

The purpose of this project was to undertake the installation of new storm sewers, catch basins and leads, manholes a watermain, an oil grit separator (OGS), Erosion and Sediment Controls (ESC) and a stormwater storage structure on the south side of Finch Avenue at Black Creek, in the City of Toronto. The proposed work was required to prepare the areas within the associated lands for the construction of the FWLRT and associated road widening of Finch Avenue.

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

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 CFN 62815 – Excavation, Backfill, and Drainage – Humber College New Infrastructure (HCNI) and Humber College Stop (HCS) – south of Humber College Boulevard, west of Highway 27 – Finch West Light Rail Transit Project - issued on May 15, 2020

The purpose of this project was to undertake additional erosion and sediment control (ESC) installation, topsoil and asphalt stripping, excavation, grading, backfill, wet utility installation and temporary restoration and stabilization within the Humber College Parking Lot (Lot 5) and the south section of the proposed Humber College Stop, located west of Highway 27, south of Humber College Boulevard, in the City of Toronto. The proposed work was required to prepare

the areas within the associated lands for the construction of the Humber College Stop (HCS) and its associated infrastructure (HCNI) including a new access road, TPSS, and other features required for the FWLRT.

The site is located on property owned by the City of Toronto, Humber College, and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and is in the Humber River Watershed.

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 CFN 61612 – Pre-Construction Test Pit Investigation at Black Creek Tributary (Tobermory Culvert), north on Finch Avenue West between Driftwood Avenue and Tobermory Drive – Finch West Light Rail Transit Project – revision issued on May 25, 2020

The purpose of this project was to undertake test pit investigation works, including the removal of three trees, on the north side of Finch Avenue West between Driftwood Avenue and Tobermory Drive, adjacent to the tributary of Black Creek, in the City of Toronto. The Voluntary Project Review revision was issued for the request to undertake another test pit investigation on the north side of Finch Avenue West between Driftwood Avenue and Tobermory Drive.

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

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4. CFN 63055 – Temporary Road Widening, Section 1 (Highway 27) Part A; South of Humber College Boulevard, West side of Highway 27 – Finch West Light Rail Transit Project – issued on June 2, 2020

The purpose of this project was to temporarily widen Highway 27 to facilitate future works to accommodate the proposed FWLRT. The proposed works involve excavation of topsoil, grading, installation of a 66m temporary storm sewer, new temporary roadworks (including sidewalk and granular placement), catch basin installation and rip rap on the adjacent slope at the sidewalk cut locations.

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

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5. CFN 63173 – Temporary Traffic Signal Installation, Finch Avenue and Islington Avenue – Finch West Light Rail Transit Project – issued September 18, 2020

The purpose of this project was to undertake the installation of four temporary traffic signals at the signalized intersection and remove the existing traffic signal poles at the intersection of Islington Avenue and Finch Avenue West, in the City of Toronto. The proposed work was required to prepare the areas within the associated lands for the construction of the FWLRT.

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

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6. CFN 62815 – Excavation, Backfill, and Drainage – Humber College New Infrastructure (HCNI) and Humber College Stop (HCS) – south of Humber College Boulevard, west of Highway 27 – Finch West Light Rail Transit Project – Revision issued October 8, 2020

The purpose of this project was to undertake the excavation, backfill and drainage within the Humber College Parking Lot (Lot 5) and the south section of the proposed Humber College Stop, located west of Highway 27, south of Humber College Boulevard, in the City of Toronto. The Voluntary Project Review revision was issued for the revised utilities within the project area to include new manholes and duct banks within the proposed access road at the Humber College New Infrastructure (HCNI) project site.

The site is located on property owned by the City of Toronto, Humber College and TRCA and is in the Humber River Watershed.

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7. CFN 63074 – Permanent Wet Utilities, Road Works and Outfall Replacement Section 1A (Part 1 – Hwy 27) – Finch West Light Rail Transit Project – issued on October 16, 2020

The purpose of this project was to undertake the installation of wet utilities (storm sewer network only), the permanent re-alignment of Highway 27, and the replacement and construction of an outfall on Highway 27, south of Humber College Boulevard, near the Humber River, in the City of Toronto. The proposed work was required within the associated lands for the construction and accommodation of the FWLRT in the vicinity of Highway 27 and Humber College.

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

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8. CFN 63299 – HCNI-HCS Paving, Piling Tiebacks, HC Stop Excavation, Dewatering – Highway 27 and Humber College – Finch West Light Rail Transit Project – issued on October 29, 2020

The purpose of this project was to undertake the installation for the Humber College New Infrastructure (HCNI) and Humber College Stop (HCS) paving, piling, tiebacks, excavation and dewatering proposed west of Highway 27, south of Humber College Boulevard, in the City of Toronto. This project was the first stage of the HCS station construction. The proposed work was required to prepare the areas within the associated lands for the construction of the Finch LRT.

The site is located on property owned by Humber College, City of Toronto and TRCA and is in the Humber River Watershed.

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9. CFN 63799 – Toronto Hydro Electric System Ltd. And Bell Canada Preparatory Works, Finch Avenue West from Albion Road to Kipling Avenue - Finch West Light Rail Transit – issued on November 24, 2020

The purpose of the project was to undertake preparatory works as part of the FWLRT, along Finch Avenue West from Albion Road to Kipling Avenue, in the City of Toronto. The proposed works include the installation of erosion and sediment control (ESC) measures, the relocation of Toronto Hydro Electric Service Ltd. (THESL) underground infrastructure and streetlights, and the relocation of Bell Canada (Bell) underground and aerial infrastructure. The work for this FWLRT project will take place solely within the City of Toronto Right of Way (ROW). Tree removals are proposed as part of this scope of work. MTG has confirmed that they will receive permits from the City of Toronto before any removals take place and there are no valley/feature removals proposed under this project. There are no in-water works within the scope of this project The site is located on property owned by the City of Toronto and is in the Humber River Watershed.

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10. CFN 63284 – Tobermory Culvert Replacement – Finch West Light Rail Transit Project – issued on December 2, 2020

The purpose of this project was to replace the Tobermory Creek Culvert (Tributary of Black Creek), install a new transmission main and watermains, storm sewers, Oil Grit Separator (OGS) unit, stormwater storage tank, widen the Finch Avenue roadway and complete permanent restoration west of Tobermory Drive, east of Topcliff Avenue, on Finch Avenue West, in the City of Toronto. The work is required within the associated lands for the construction and accommodation of the future FWLRT infrastructure which will be reviewed by TRCA under a future VPR. In-water works include the replacement of the existing culvert conveying a tributary of Black Creek.

The site is located on property owned by City of Toronto, TRCA and private landowners and is in the Humber River Watershed.

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Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit (ECLRT) – CROSSLINX (Metrolinx)

11. CFN 59817 – Massey Creek Culvert Replacement, Eglinton Avenue East, between Birchmount Road and Ionview Road – Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit Project – Revision issued June 3, 2020

The purpose of this project was to undertake the replacement of the existing culvert at Massey Creek, Eglinton Avenue East, located between Birchmount Road and Ionview Road, in the City of Toronto. The Voluntary Project Review revision was issued for the revised storm sewer alignment and outfall location.

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

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12. CFN 62128 – Construction of Switchback Trail (Sunnybrook Path), Eglinton Ave East between West Don River Bridge and Leslie Street – Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit Project – issued on June 29, 2020

The purpose of this project was to undertake the construction of a switchback trail on the north and south side of Eglinton Avenue East, located west of Leslie Street, connecting to Serena Gundy Park and E.T Seaton Park, in the City of Toronto. The proposed works involved the construction of a 70-meter length, 3-meter wide asphalt multi-use switchback trail referred to as "Sunnybrook Path". A concrete look out will be constructed to provide access from the top of Eglinton Avenue East to the new path and a structural steel stairwell will provide access to the existing access road at the half point of the switchback. The proposed work was required to

provide linkages to the City's existing pedestrian and cyclist networks including street crossings, bike lanes and sidewalks.

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

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<u>Hurontario Light Rail Transit (HuLRT) – MOBILINX (Metrolinx)</u>

13. CFN 62937 – Hurontario Light Rail Transit Operations, Maintenance and Storage Facility (OMSF), 7324 Kennedy Road (VPR#1) – issued on May 20, 2020

The purpose of this project was to start the site preparation for the construction of the Hurontario Light Rail Transit (LRT) Operations, Maintenance and Storage Facility (OMSF) located at 7324 Kennedy Road, in the City of Brampton. Work at this site will be divided into three (3) separate VPR signoffs. This first VPR included the construction of temporary access roads, installation of temporary culverts and crossings at the eastern tributary, site grading and filling, construction of temporary sediment control ponds and installation of erosion and sediment control measures. The site is located on property owned by Metrolinx and is in the Etobicoke Creek Watershed.

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14. CFN 63276 – Hurontario Light Rail Transit Operations, Maintenance and Storage Facility (OMSF), 7324 Kennedy Road (VPR#2) – issued August 25, 2020

The purpose of this project was to continue construction of the Hurontario Light Rail Transit (LRT) Operations, Maintenance and Storage Facility (OMSF) located at 7324 Kennedy Road, in the City of Brampton. Work at this site was divided into several separate VPR signoffs. This second VPR was to construct a permanent stormwater management pond, an RSS retaining wall with foundation along the southern boundary of the site, realign a watercourse around the eastern perimeter of the site and construct a permanent culvert as part of the Hurontario Light Rail Transit (LRT) Operations, Maintenance and Storage Facility (OMSF) located at 7324 Kennedy Road, in the City of Brampton.

The site is located on property owned by Metrolinx and is in the Etobicoke Creek Watershed.

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Within Parks Canada Lands

15. CFN 61353 – Trans-Northern Pipelines Inc. Integrity Dig MP 322.26 – issued on May 22, 2020

The purpose of the project was to conduct an integrity dig to inspect and determine the integrity of an existing pipeline located on Reesor Road, south of Steeles Avenue East and just east of Sewells Road, in the City of Toronto. The works were required to conduct routine inspection and maintenance activities to ensure the integrity of the existing pipeline.

The site is located on property owned by Parks Canada and is located in the Rouge River Watershed.

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16. CFN 63171 – York Durham Sewage System Rehabilitation - Phase One Project – issued June 18, 2020

The purpose of the project was to construct access roads to facilitate rehabilitation works and future maintenance of the York-Durham Sewage System (YDSS) between south of 14th Avenue and Donald Cousens Parkway in the City of Markham and Passmore Avenue, in the City of Toronto. The proposed works also includes removal and replacement of one existing culvert with a culvert of same size.

The site is located on property owned by Parks Canada and City of Toronto, with permission to enter received by the Regional Municipality of York. The project is located in the Rouge River Watershed.

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Corridor Expansion Projects - Metrolinx GO (MX-GO) Transit

17. CFN 61359 – Small's Creek Culvert Replacement and Retaining Wall, Lakeshore East, West Corridor Expansion between Pape Avenue (Mi. 330.96) and Kennedy Road (Mi. 325.76) – issued on June 26, 2020

The purpose of the project was to undertake track expansion along the Lakeshore East Corridor between Eastern Avenue (Mi. 331.89) and Kennedy Road (Mi. 325.76) in the City of Toronto. Since the initial submission, the project limits were reduced to extend from Pape Avenue (Mi. 330.96) to Kennedy Road. The proposed works within the TRCA regulated areas include the addition of a fourth track (i.e. clearing/grubbing, grading, and retaining wall installation), culvert replacement at Small's Creek (Mi. 329.50) adjacent to the current location, realignment of Small's

Creek north of the corridor to accommodate the new culvert design, and post-construction restoration. This process is being conducted in two phases; for the process to be considered complete, both a Phase 1 and Phase 2 VPR letter must be obtained.

The site is located on property owned by Metrolinx and in the Don River Watershed.

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18. CFN 57691 – Rutherford GO Station Improvement Works, 699 Westburne Drive, Southeast corner of Rutherford Road and Westburne Drive – issued on August 20, 2020

The purpose of this project was to undertake construction of a new station at Rutherford GO Station located at 699 Westburne Drive, south of Rutherford Road, in the City of Vaughan. The proposed works involved the construction of a new station with all its amenities including a new multi storey indoor parking structure and integrated station building, new platforms, new tracks, on ground parking lot and associated amenities, rail/road grade separation, pedestrian connectivity on site and a new pedestrian bridge over Rutherford Road and landscaping of the site. The proposed works were undertaken to improve transit facilities and passenger mobility. The site is located on property owned by Metrolinx and is in the Don River Watershed.

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19. CFN 60646 – Wice to Airway Upgrades (Carlingview Drive to Torbram Road) – issued on September 2, 2020

The purpose of this Voluntary Project Review (VPR) is to upgrade the Kitchener Rail Corridor between Wice and Airway (Carlingview Drive to Torbram Road) to address increased servicing demands through bi-directional service. Upgrades will include adding a third track, within the rail corridor, from Mile 12.97 (Wice) to Mile 15.97 (Airway), a culvert replacement at Mile 14.50 and a utility culvert decommissioning at Mile 14.60. The existing North Service Track will be upgraded into a mainline track within the existing three track Metrolinx right-of-way (ROW) corridor. The existing drainage patterns will remain the same however, stormwater management conditions will be improved through the construction of soak away pits, enhanced grassed swales and ditch check dams to reduce runoff velocity.

The site is located on property owned by Metrolinx and is in the Mimico Creek Watershed.

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FINANCIAL DETAILS

The review was paid for through the terms of the service level agreements with Metrolinx and the Regional Municipality of York, and through the payment of review fees as per the approved TRCA Fee schedule for the Trans Northern Pipelines Incorporated project.

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 7, 2021