

Item for the Information of the Regional Watershed Alliance

TO: Chair and Members of the Regional Watershed Alliance
Wednesday, March 02, 2022 Meeting

FROM: Sameer Dhalla, Director, Development and Engineering Services

RE: **BLACK CREEK RENEWAL AT VAUGHAN METROPOLITAN CENTRE**

KEY ISSUE

Report outlining the Black Creek Renewal project, which is the subject of a joint presentation with City of Vaughan staff.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT this report, and the accompanying presentation, be received by the Regional Watershed Alliance.

BACKGROUND

The Vaughan Metropolitan Centre (VMC) is the City of Vaughan's downtown core, intended to continue to grow as a complete and balanced community with high-density mixed uses that are transit supportive and pedestrian friendly, and include a distinctive sense of place, enhanced public realm and environmentally resilient features.

The Black Creek tributary of the Humber River watershed runs through the VMC, and is prone to existing flood risk, exacerbated by the highly urbanized nature of the surrounding drainage areas. The area is one of TRCA's Flood Vulnerable Clusters (Edgeley/Vaughan Centre), and has historically experienced flooding with high-intensity, short duration storms, such as the August 19, 2005 storm.

The City of Vaughan previously completed the Black Creek Storm Water Optimization Study Master Plan Class Environmental Assessment (EA). The study identified a range of alternative solutions to reduce flooding and flood damages, improve water quality and limit stream bank erosion in Black Creek. The preferred solution to address flooding was determined to be the reconstruction and renewal of Black Creek between Edgeley Pond (north of Highway 7) and Highway 407. Subsequently, the City undertook the Black Creek Renewal Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) Study, which established the alignment and form of Black Creek through the south-east quadrant of the VMC Secondary Plan Area, and was initially started in 2012. An extensive consultation and facilitation process took place over 2013 and 2014 with directly affected landowners and agencies to better understand key issues, opportunities and constraints. Subsequently, a financial strategy was developed to establish the framework for funding the realignment and renewal of the Black Creek channel. The financial strategy was approved by City of Vaughan Council in June 2016, and the Black Creek Renewal Municipal Class Environmental Assessment was approved by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks in 2019.

RATIONALE

The Black Creek Renewal Design is based on the following guiding principles:

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- Re-align and Reconstruct the Black Creek Corridor
- Mitigate flooding impacts to Adjacent Properties
- Create a signature public destination
- Implement a Public Realm
- Establish Habitat and Enhance Ecology
- Create New Connections and Opportunities
- Celebrate Stormwater
- Educate and Inform

The main components to the project include the development of the Edgeley Pond and Park, improvements to culverts along Highway 7 (York Regional Road) that restrict hydraulic capacity, and the renewal of the Black Creek Channel south of Highway 7.

The Black Creek Renewal and Edgeley Pond & Park project is being advanced using a design-build project delivery model, the first project to utilize this methodology for the City of Vaughan. The Edgeley Pond and Park design was completed and circulated for approval agencies review, and a technical consultant has been engaged to provide 30% technical design completion for the Black Creek Renewal component of the project. Meanwhile, the City of Vaughan has been partnering with York Region to advance the culvert improvements on Highway 7. In October 2021, the City of Vaughan submitted its application to Infrastructure Canada's Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund to secure matching funds for this project. The TRCA has supported this potential grant opportunity.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

As the 30% technical design continues to advance, land acquisition is expected to commence in Spring 2022, with the design-build contractor award scheduled for 2023.

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 3 – Rethink greenspace to maximize its value

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

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