



Report to: General Committee

Meeting Date: June 12, 2018

SUBJECT: Don Mills Channel Flood Reduction Municipal Class
Environmental Assessment

PREPARED BY: Rob Grech, Environmental Engineer, ext. 2357
Robert Muir, Manager, Stormwater, ext 2894

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) THAT the report entitled “Don Mills Channel Flood Reduction Class Environmental Assessment” be received;
- 2) AND THAT Council endorse the combination of Culvert Upgrades, Central Flood Control Facility and Education/Flood Proofing as the Preferred Alternative for the Don Mills Channel Flood Reduction Study (the “Class EA Study”);
- 3) AND THAT Staff be authorized to file the Class EA Project File Report for the 30 day public review commencing June 30, 2018;
- 4) AND THAT Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this Resolution;

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council’s endorsement for the preferred alternative solution for the Don Mills Channel Environmental Assessment Study and to obtain the Council’s authorization to file the Municipal Class EA (MCEA) Report for the 30-day public review.

BACKGROUND:

As per Council direction from February 2013, the Don Mills Channel Flood Reduction MCEA has proceeded based on a target of providing a 5 year level of service for the study area.

As presented to General Committee on February 20, 2018 the Preferred Alternative is a combination of culvert upgrades, flood proofing/education program and a central storage facility to be constructed south of Steelcase Road East (see Attachment 1).

An implementation plan for the Preliminary Preferred Alternative was presented which is summarized as follows:

Task	Date
Flood Proofing/Education Program Development	2018
Property Acquisition	2018-2021
Design/Construction of Central Flood Control Facility	2021-2022
Design/Construction of Culvert Upgrades	2026-2030

The estimated cost based on the MCEA Preferred Alternative is \$72 Million.

At the February 20, 2018 General Committee meeting, Council recommended that staff conduct public meetings to receive feedback on the findings of the Environmental Assessment.

OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:

Public Consultation

Staff hosted a meeting with the Project Liaison Committee on March 28, 2018, and held Public Information Centre #2 on April 4, 2018.

The Public Information Centre was advertised on the City's website, in the local newspapers (Thornhill Liberal and Economist & Sun), through mail outs to landowners in the study area, and with mobile signs placed on Woodbine Avenue and John Street.

The Class EA study information has been posted on the City's website since mid-March and staff have also responded to inquiries from the public either on the phone or by email, and through individual meetings.

In total, eight (8) people signed in at the public meeting, and another five (5) attended and did not sign in. Staff spoke with three (3) landowners by phone and had meetings with four (4) others.

The feedback on the evaluation process and the Preliminary Preferred Alternative presented in the Class EA study has been generally positive and can be categorized as follows:

- Concerns with current/future maintenance practices for the channel.
- Concerns that the level of service for the alternative should be a 100 year design storm.
- Discussion of which parts of the Education/Flood Proofing to pursue.

Level of Service Increases

As per Council direction, the Preferred Alternative was designed for a 5 year storm event. However, the following benefits will be realized during a 100 year storm with the implementation of the Preferred Alternative:

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- Reduction in flood depths and associated flood damages on several properties
 - Reduced flooding of Woodbine Avenue, Steelcase Road and Denison Road
 - Promotion of privately funded higher levels of services for private properties through the Flood Proofing/Education Program

At Council's request, Staff completed a preliminary review of options for capital works that would increase the Don Mills Channel system to the 100 year level service. This included channel widening, underground storage on private properties, and expanding the Central Storage Facility to vertical storage shafts.

The least expensive option has a minimum estimated cost of \$135 Million, in addition to the initial investment of \$72 Million allocated for the 5 year level of protection. This brings the total investment for the Don Mills Channel project to \$207 Million. The number of benefitting properties for this additional investment is relatively low (approximately 20 from Consultant modelling results).

The protection level will be enhanced at the Don Mill Channel area when there are new developments since they will need to adhere to City design standards to manage the 100 year storm.

As such, Staff do not recommend that the 100 year level of service for the Don Mills Channel area to be pursued further.

Flood Proofing/Education Program

In 2018, as part of the project implementation, Staff will review channel maintenance activities and develop the education/flood proofing program recommended in the Class EA Study. This program is to be developed in consultation with other departments, members of Council and the public. There are a number of aspects to be considered:

- General Education – promote risk and damage reduction activities through pamphlets, brochures, and website resources.
- Targeted Education - meet with landowners in the study area, development of flood protection/land management plans for each site.
- Flood Protection Incentives – provide rebates for flood protection (similar to Markham's Pilot Private Plumbing Protection Program).
- Stormwater Control Policy Review – review current policies to make improvements to the system through the development process, and incentivize the re-development process where possible.

Finalizing MCEA Process

Based on the feedback that was received, no changes are recommended to the evaluation that was presented at Council on February 20, 2018.

With Council Approval, Staff will proceed to finalize the Class EA by posting the report for mandatory 30-day public review. After which, if there are no objections (i.e., Part II

Orders), the project can proceed as per the Implementation Schedule. External consultants would be hired to conduct the property acquisition that is required for the Flood Control Facility in 2018.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The estimated cost of the project is \$72 Million which will be funded from the Stormwater Fee. The incremental cost will be taken into consideration when Staff undertakes a review of the Stormwater Fee in 2019 for implementation.

HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS

Not Applicable


ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The proposed flood remediation program is consistent with the Building Markham's Future Together strategic priority on providing a "Safe and Sustainable Community" through the proactive management of infrastructure to reduce flood risks.

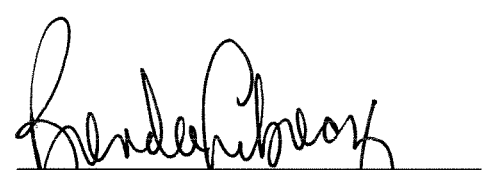
BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

Not applicable

RECOMMENDED BY:



Phoebe Fu, P. Eng
Director, Environmental Services



Brenda Librecz
Commissioner, Community & Fire Services

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 – Overview of Preferred Flood Protection Alternative