



Report to: Development Services Committee

Date of Meeting: June 21, 2011 (Part B)

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| SUBJECT: | Southeast Collector Trunk Sewer Enhancement Plan – Selection of Projects |
| PREPARED BY: | Lilli Duoba, Senior Project Coordinator, Environmental Planning & Rouge Park, extension 7925 Ruth Rendon, Senior Environmental Planner, Planning and Development, extension 6922 |
| REVIEWED BY: | Tim Lambe, Manager of Policy and Research, extension 2910 |

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the report entitled “Southeast Collector Trunk Sewer Enhancement Plan – Selection of Projects” dated June 21, 2011, be received;
2. And that Council endorse the Southeast Collector Trunk Sewer Enhancement project allocations as recommended by the Environmental Issues Committee and outlined in this report;
3. And that Council authorize staff to continue to work with the Regional Municipality of York on finalizing the final budget allocations and to secure the implementation agreements;
4. And that Major and Clerk be authorized to execute such agreements as necessary to give effect to this report, to the satisfaction of the Town Solicitor;
5. And that a copy of this report be forwarded to the Regional Municipality of York, York Region District School Board, York Region Catholic District School Board, Toronto Region Conservation Authority and the Rouge Park Alliance for information; and,
6. And that Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In February 2006, the Minister of the Environment approved Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Southeast Collector (SEC) Trunk Sewer project. The trunk sewer was required for the remaining unfinished sections of the York Durham Sewage System (YDSS) including the SEC Trunk Sewer project from 9th Line in Markham to Valley Farm Road in Pickering. This is a joint project between the Regional Municipality of York (Region of York) and Regional Municipality of Durham (Region of Durham). The ToR required a mitigation plan, as well as the development of an enhancement plan, as part of the Individual Environmental Assessment (IEA) process. Enhancements are aimed at creating a lasting improvement and positive legacy to the environment and/or human community that would not otherwise be provided through the IEA process. The Regions of York and Durham allocated 15 million dollars for the entire program of which \$7 million dollars was allocated to projects with in the Town of Markham, with \$6 million dollars of the Markham allocation directed to implementation of the Bob Hunter Memorial Park (BHMP) in Rouge Park.

The SEC Enhancement Plan process undertook a number of public consultation events with the public and stakeholders to generate a list of potential projects. The Region of York then undertook a Project Feasibility Study to identify a short list of potential projects. Town staff undertook an internal review of the short list sites identified by the Region of York and identified 18 feasible projects. The projects had to address the regional criteria for ecological, recreational or infrastructure enhancements and be located within the general study area of the southeast collector trunk sewer.

The SEC Enhancement Plan was presented to Environmental Issues Committee on May 5, 2011 and the following projects and allocations were identified for Council consideration (\$1,000,000 dollars in total):

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| \$200,000 | University Entrance Scholarship Funding for York Region School Boards |
| \$400,000 | Box Grove Community Centre Parkland Improvements |
| \$250,000 | Trails Construction in Legacy and Box Grove Communities |
| \$120,000 | Locust Hill School House Stabilization and Exterior Restoration (conditional on Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) matching funding) |
| \$ 25,000 | Dimma House On-Site House Relocation (conditional on TRCA matching funding) |
| \$ 5,000 | 'Markham Remembered' Interpretive Signage |

It is recommended that Council endorse the enhancement projects recommended by the Environmental Issues Committee and authorize staff to continue to work with the Region of York to confirm the budget requirements and execute the appropriate agreements to implement the projects.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to bring forward recommendations for the allocation of 1 million dollars in ecological, recreational and infrastructure funding from the SEC Enhancement Plan for the Town.

BACKGROUND

Southeast Collector Enhancement Plan

In October 2004, the Minister of the Environment informed the Region of York that an IEA was required for the remaining unfinished sections of the YDSS including the SEC Trunk Sewer project from 9th Line in Markham to Valley Farm Road in Pickering. Refer to **Figure 1** for SEC Trunk Sewer Study Area – Town of Markham. As the Regions jointly own and operate the existing SEC Trunk Sewer, Region of York and Durham agreed to be co-proponents for the SEC Trunk Sewer IEA.

In February 2006, the Minister of the Environment approved the ToR including, not only the requirement for a mitigation plan, but also stipulating development of an enhancement plan as part of the IEA process. Infrastructure projects such as the SEC Trunk Sewer are required to mitigate adverse effects on the environment or compensate for the adverse effects. Mitigation measures are used to avoid the adverse impact where possible and minimize the adverse impact if it cannot be avoided or rehabilitate and/or restore the environment after construction.

Enhancements are initiatives that go beyond mitigation and compensation measures to create improvements to the environment and/or human communities that would not otherwise be provided through the EA process. The co-proponents have committed to providing a positive legacy to the local community affected by the SEC Trunk Sewer Project through the formation of an Enhancement Plan.

On November 20, 2008, Region of York Council approved the Enhancement Plan for the SEC Trunk Sewer including an expenditure of 15 million dollars (7 million dollars in Markham and 8 million dollars in Pickering). The Region of York allocated funding of approximately 6 million dollars for the construction of trails, a parking lot, and woodland and wetland restoration projects over a 5 year period (2010 to 2014) in Bob Hunter Memorial Park. This project is underway which includes the recently constructed trail north of 14th. The remaining 1 million dollars has been allocated to other enhancement projects planned in Markham under the SEC project. The Region of York has requested that Markham Council confirm the funding allocation for the short listed projects.

Consultation

To identify enhancement projects for consideration, the Regions of York and Durham consulted widely with local community groups, stakeholders and agencies on Ecological, Recreational and Infrastructure Enhancements (ERIE). Consultation in Markham included the following:

- Project website
- Project phone hotline
- Public Information Forums (2005 – 2008)
- Resident outreach held in Fall 2007
- Neighbourhood Session held in Winter 2007
- Newsletters
- Meetings with the Southeast Collector Advisory Committee

This process also included several meetings with community associations, school boards, TRCA, individual citizens, stakeholders, Markham staff and agencies. Southeast collector projects were

proposed where they met the Region of York's criteria for ecological, recreational and infrastructure enhancements and where they met the locational criteria being generally in the vicinity of the proposed SEC Trunk Sewer Study Area.

Enhancement Project Technical Review and Selection Process

The consultations undertaken by the Region of York and Region of Durham resulted in a listing of over 140 potential projects. The Region then undertook a screening process and prepared a Feasibility Study Report which shortlisted 22 projects in the Town. At a meeting held on March 10, 2011, the Region met with Town staff to review the project list and further scope the project list. This resulted in an additional 4 sites being added to the short list for review and consideration. Staff then undertook an internal review to ensure the projects were still feasible. This resulted in a further elimination of projects that were either already completed, not clearly described or identified, did not have a committed sponsor or could not be delivered within a reasonable time frame due to property ownership issues or other constraints. The final shortlist resulted in 18 feasible projects identified in Appendix 'A'.

On May 5, 2011 staff reviewed the SEC Enhancement Plan with the Environmental Issues Committee (EIC). EIC reviewed the projects considering the following criteria:

- Is the project located within the SEC Trunk Sewer Study Area?
- Does the project meet the criteria established by the SEC for Ecological, Recreational, or Infrastructure enhancements?
- Is the project located inside or outside of the Rouge Park?
- Can the project be easily funded through another source?
- Is there an legacy and community benefit?

The following projects and allocations were recommended by Environmental Issues Committee for consideration by Council:

1. **Region of York/Markham Post Secondary Education Scholarship.**

Region of York allocation \$200,000

Project Lead: Region of York

This project has been identified as a requirement by the Region of York and a parallel project and allocation has been provided for the Region of Durham school boards. The Region has identified \$100,000 dollars for each school board to provide university/college entrance scholarships for students entering environmental studies programs. The scholarships would be targeted to Markham students. An agreement with the Town, Region of York and the school boards would be required.

2. **Box Grove Community Centre Parkland Improvements**

Environmental Issues Committee recommended allocation \$400,000

Project Lead: Town of Markham (Parks and Open Space staff)

This project was not one the original projects identified but came forward as request from the Box Grove Community Association for outdoor landscape and park improvements to the Box Grove Community Centre. See **Figure '2'** for location of site. Box Grove Community Centre is owned by the Town and operated by the Box Grove Community Association. The park space adjacent to the Box Grove Community Centre contains a tennis court, basketball

hoop and playground equipment. Parks and Open Space staff have reviewed this request and have confirmed that improvements to the site are warranted, but are not currently scheduled for funding. A full site assessment and design concept has not yet been prepared for the site, but potential improvements could include parking lot improvements, site serving, re-grading, lighting, park furnishing, and park structures including enhancements to the playground. Parks and Open Space staff in Development Services will undertake a site assessment of this project in consultation with Operations staff in Community Services to confirm appropriate site improvements for the facility within the budget allocation identified. Proposed park improvements would include consultation with the local community. Staff will report back to Development Services Committee on the recommended improvements. Refer to **Figure '3'** for photo of the parkland space.

3. **Trails Construction in Legacy and Box Grove Communities**

Environmental Issues Committee recommended allocation \$250,000

Project Lead: Town of Markham (Engineering staff)

The Town is currently undertaking an Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Multi-use Path from Toogood Pond to Milne Dam Conservation Area to Bob Hunter Memorial Park in the Rouge River Valley. This EA is part of the 5 Year Implementation Program endorsed by Council on December 13, 2010 and is also supported by the Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. The 5 year capital implementation program is valued at approximately \$10 million dollars, or \$2 million dollars per year. Funding currently available in Engineering Capital accounts would support the implementation of the first year implementation program. Budget resources will need to be identified on an annual basis to support construction, ongoing maintenance and capital upgrades of the existing and future network. The Engineering Department has advised that additional funding support for the 5 Year Implementation Program would be needed.

The three trail linkages that have been identified as potentially feasible trail projects are located in the Legacy and Box Grove communities. These sites are included in the Town's EA. Refer to **Figure '2'**. The Environmental Issues Committee recommended that the Town enter into an agreement with the Region of York to secure funding up to \$250,000 dollars to be allocated to trail construction within the Legacy and Box Grove communities upon completion of the EA process. Once the EA process is completed in 2012, staff will report back to Council on the detailed expenditure and implementation of the enhancement fund allocation.

4. **Locust Hill School House stabilization and exterior restoration**

Environmental Issues Committee recommended allocation \$120,000

Project Lead: Town of Markham (Heritage Staff) and/or Toronto Region Conservation Authority

The Locust Hill School House is located at 8949 Reesor Road on TRCA lands within the Rouge Park, refer to **Figure '3'**. At this time, the building is vacant, boarded and has been subjected to some vandalism. Staff believe that there is standing water in the basement but have not formally inspected the building. The property is designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* and is a significant historic resource within the Rouge Park. Some of the work that may need to be undertaken includes a structural assessment of the building

condition to address works needed to prevent further building deterioration, removal of the water from the basement, well and septic repair, exterior and interior site cleanup, paint removal and window repair subject to security and vandalism issues being addressed. As the property is owned by the TRCA, it is recommended that the repair costs be shared equally and that the TRCA allocate equal funding to support the restoration. Town staff have discussed this matter with the TRCA who are generally supportive of the undertaking, but further discussions are needed with both the TRCA and Rouge Park to identify the necessary funding. According to the Little Rouge Corridor Management Plan (2007), the Locust Hill Schoolhouse has been proposed as a potential location for a Welcome Centre. The use will be determined in the context of the Rouge Park North Consolidated Plan. The Town's heritage staff will review this project in further detail with the TRCA, Rouge Park and the Heritage Committee and report back to Committee with project details. See **Figure '2'** for a photo of the property.

5. **Dimma House on-site house relocation**

Environmental Issues Committee recommended allocation \$25,000

Project Lead: Town of Markham (Heritage staff) and/or TRCA

The Dimma House is located at 7933 14th Avenue on TRCA lands within the Rouge Park. See **Figure '3'**. The property is located in the floodplain and the building itself is located over the top of bank sloping towards the watercourse. The property is designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* and is a significant historic resource within the Rouge Park. At this time the building is vacant and is in serious need of structural repairs. In order to restore the building, it needs to be moved onto a new foundation approximately 18 metres from its current location. The combined cost of the new foundation and house relocation would be approximately \$50,000 dollars. As the property is owned by the TRCA, it is recommended that the building relocation and new foundation costs be shared equally and that the TRCA allocate funding to support the relocation. The TRCA support in principle the relocation of the house, but further discussions are required to identify a funding source. The use of the Dimma House will be determined in the context of the Rouge Park North Consolidated Plan. The Town's Heritage staff will review this project in further detail with the TRCA, Rouge Park and the Heritage Committee and report back to Committee with project details. Refer to **Figure '3'** for a photo of the building.

6. **Heritage Interpretive Signage**

Environmental Issues Committee recommended allocation \$5,000

Project Lead: Town of Markham (Heritage staff)

Markham 'Remembered' Interpretive Signage Program is managed by the Heritage staff in the Town of Markham in collaboration with local community members. The Environmental Issues Committee have recommended the allocation of the \$5,000 dollars for two plaques which would be located at the Box Grove Community Center and the Cedar Grove Community Center. Refer to **Figure '2'** for location of proposed signage.

Next Steps

Council's endorsement of the revised list of enhancements will enable staff to collaborate with York Region and other partners on refining the projects planned for the 2011-2014 time period and securing the necessary implementation agreements.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no direct financial impacts to the Town. The approval of the SEC Enhancement Plan would result in a net benefit of \$800,000 to the Town, the Rouge Park and TRCA partners, and \$200,000 dollars to the Region of York School Boards for scholarship funding for Markham students.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The SEC Enhancement Plan supports the Town's environmental protection goals and is consistent with the Rouge River Watershed Plan 2007 and the Markham's Greenprint Sustainability Plan.

TOWN PARTICIPATION

Town staff from the Development Services and Community Services commissions have been actively involved in the SEC Enhancement Plan process and will continue to be engaged in the management and implementation of this plan. Markham Council will be updated on the progress of the projects.

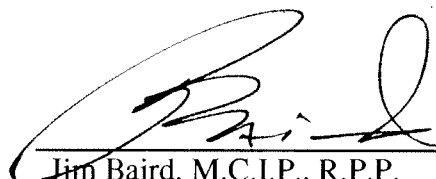
BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED

This report has been reviewed by the Legal Department and Community Services.

RECOMMENDED BY:



Rino Mostacci, M.C.I.P., R.P.P.
Director of Planning and Urban Design



Jim Baird, M.C.I.P., R.P.P.
Commissioner of Development Services

ATTACHMENTS

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| Figure '1': | Town of Markham SEC Trunk Sewer Study Area Map |
| Figure '2': | Town of Markham Proposed SEC Enhancement Projects |
| Figure '3': | Photo's of Recommended Projects |
| Appendix 'A': | Town of Markham Shortlist of SEC Enhancement Projects |

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