

DECISION/DIRECTION NOTE

Title: “What We Heard” - Rennies River Flood Mitigation - Public Engagement

Date Prepared: December 9, 2019

Report To: Regular Meeting of Council

Councillor and Role: Councillor Ian Froude, Public Works & Sustainability

Ward: Ward 4

Decision/Direction Required:

As a part of the submission process for the environmental registration of the Rennies River Flood Mitigation Project – Phase 2, a Virtual Public Meeting was held on November 17, 2020. The purpose of the meeting was to present the project scope to the public in an effort to gain feedback and comments prior to submitting the environmental registration documentation to the Province.

The next step, would be to submit the registration documentation to the Province to start the Environmental Assessment process.

Discussion – Background and Current Status:

In advance of the Virtual Public Meeting, a project Engage page was set-up to provide the public with the project details and offer a forum for Q & A. The Engage page garnered a lot of interest and had 623 visits, with 444 unique visitors. There were 41 people who attended the virtual public meeting.

Attached for your information is the detailed “What We Heard” document. For the most part all comments were critical of the project. The following is a summary of key concerns / issues from all feedback:

- health and beauty of the river
- project proceeding without the weir project completed
- environmental assessment process for the Weir and this project, and timelines
- impact of this project and the shared-use bike plan including widening, removal of trees, potential use of asphalt for shared use path, run off
- the use and look of berms
- the water table/surface water, ground water
- impact on surrounding properties on Empire Avenue
- Feildian Grounds and Riverdale area concerns
- immediate impact on houses in the area and the desire not to proceed with the project at all by some property owners

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It is noted that nobody (on the Engage page or during the virtual public meeting) made any commentary on being in support of the project. However, outside of the formal engagement process, there was some property owner support for the work adjacent to Winter Ave being completed.

Key Considerations/Implications:**1. Budget/Financial Implications:**

None related to the engagement process. The project is funded under the New Building Canada Fund (\$1.9M).

2. Partners or Other Stakeholders:

Several stakeholders noted in the “What We Heard” document, other stakeholders will be involved as a part of the Provinces Environmental Assessment review process.

3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans:

A Sustainable City.

4. Legal or Policy Implications:

A reduction to the project scope could have an impact on the flood protection provided to some property owners during large rainfall events.

5. Privacy Implications:

N/A

6. Engagement and Communications Considerations:

Public engagement work undertaken by staff in Organizational Performance and Strategy. “What We Heard” document to be posted to Engage page for public information.

7. Human Resource Implications:

N/A

8. Procurement Implications:

N/A

9. Information Technology Implications:

N/A

10. Other Implications:

N/A

Recommendation:

That Council, in consideration of the “What We Heard” document, provide staff direction on the scope of work to be registered with the Province as a part of the Environment Assessment process.

Prepared by: Scott Winsor, Director of Engineering

Approved by: Jason Sinyard, Deputy City Manager PERS

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Rennies River Flood Mitigation - Ph 2 (What We Heard).docx
Attachments:	- Rennies River Information Session Summary of Q and A.pdf - What We Heard Rennies River Flood Mitigation 2020.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Dec 10, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Jason Sinyard - Dec 10, 2020 - 3:17 PM