

Pw-B2-1

DATE: May 16, 2011

REPORT TITLE: LAKE FILL FEASIBILITY STUDY
CAPITAL PROJECT 11-1531
CITY OF MISSISSAUGA, WARD 1

FROM: Dan Labrecque, Commissioner of Public Works

RECOMMENDATION

That the Region of Peel enter into a joint initiative with the City of Mississauga, Credit Valley Conservation and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority to undertake a Lake Fill Feasibility Study, in conjunction with Inspiration Lakeview, to evaluate the potential of using excavated fill from Capital Infrastructure Projects in the Region of Peel, City of Mississauga;

And further, that Credit Valley Conservation be reimbursed for the Lake Fill Feasibility Study in the estimated amount of \$250,000 (excluding applicable taxes) under Capital Project 11-1531;

And further, that the Lake Fill Feasibility Study for \$250,000 (excluding applicable taxes) be set up under Capital Project 11-1531, financed from the water stabilization reserve R0241.

And further, that a copy of the report of the Commissioner of Public Works, dated May 16, 2011, titled "Lake Fill Feasibility Study, Capital Project 11-1531 – City of Mississauga, Ward 1" be forwarded to the City of Mississauga, Credit Valley Conservation and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, for information.

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LAKE FILL FEASIBILITY STUDY**CAPITAL PROJECT 11-1531****CITY OF MISSISSAUGA, WARD 1****REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

- The industry is at a crisis stage for finding places to deposit excavated material from Capital expansions and Replacement programs by the Region of Peel and area Municipalities.
- The 10-year capital plan for Public Works Water and Wastewater alone will result in over 2 million cubic metres of fill.
- Disposal sites for contractors are becoming limited resulting in higher infrastructure costs or inability for contractors to bid on Peel projects.
- Working with Credit Valley Conservation (CVC), The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and the City of Mississauga a study to review the creation of new waterfront lands with excavated material and rubble has been developed.
- This legacy project would reduce the costs for the Region of Peel, in disposing of excavated material generated within the City of Mississauga, reduce air emissions and create beneficial green space in the City of Mississauga for all Peel residents.
- It is recommended that this collaborative feasibility study to determine if the Lake Fill project is a viable alternative for the disposal of excavated material along with stakeholder involvement at an estimated cost of \$250,000 (excluding applicable taxes) to be funded from the water stabilization reserve R0241.

DISCUSSION**1. Background**

Based on the current 10-year capital plan, the Water and Wastewater Divisions within the Region of Peel Public Works department will generate an estimated 2 million cubic meters of excavated fill. Currently most contractors working with the Region of Peel and Municipalities are experiencing difficulty finding suitable disposal sites for excavated material from new infrastructure projects. Contractors now have to go well outside of the Region of Peel to dispose of material resulting in higher infrastructure costs. Transportation and disposal costs for clean fill are becoming a major challenge for contractors. Additionally the longer distance traveled to various disposal sites leads to a significant rise in truck air emissions. With limited disposal options available, contractors that have secured disposal sites will likely be the successful vendor. This will cause tenders to come in at a much higher price and hurt long term ability to obtain competitive bids. These same issues are being experienced within the Region of Peel's local Municipalities and finding new fill disposal options will benefit all Municipal Infrastructure programs.

While disposal of fill has become a major financial burden for infrastructure projects this material can potentially represent a valuable resource for the community. Credit Valley Conservation (CVC), the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and the City of Mississauga have been working together with the Region of Peel to look at various options for disposal of excavated material. One of the most viable alternatives is lake fill disposal near the G.E. Booth (Lakeview) Wastewater Treatment Facility and the adjacent Ontario Power Generation (OPG) lands. This could create approximately 200 acres of wetlands and park space between Marie Curtis Park in Toronto and the eastern pier of the OPG site, and between Lakefront Promenade Park and Port Credit in Mississauga. The new lands created from lake filling will result in additional waterfront access, connections to park systems and the creation of coastal habitats. There is an opportunity to contribute directly to improvements in aquatic and terrestrial habitat. In discussions with the City of Mississauga

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it could also enhance the available land space for the “Green Moves” illustrated in Inspiration Lakeview which is currently being considered for the OPG lands. Many cities such as Chicago and Toronto have used lake fill projects over the years to expand their cities while saving costs to taxpayers, creating beneficial land uses and enhancing the environment. Evidence of this can also be seen with the Lake Front Promenade development in Mississauga which could be expanded further to the west as part of this initiative. In this way the fill material can be utilized within the community, providing a variety of environmental and urban design benefits.

This project will enhance CVC’s work on the Lake Ontario Integrated Shoreline Strategy (LOISS) that they have already commenced. In turn, scientific studies related to LOISS will complement this proposed undertaking. As part of these two projects there may be an opportunity for other lake fill options along the Mississauga water front that the City of Mississauga and stakeholder’s explored as part of Inspiration Lakeview.

2. Proposed Direction

It is proposed that the Region of Peel, City of Mississauga and the Conservation Authorities proceed with the feasibility study in a Collaborative approach. The Region will fund the estimated cost of \$250,000 (excluding applicable taxes) paid to CVC to lead the initial feasibility study. CVC will reimburse TRCA for their expertise required as they have completed several similar projects of this scope.

When the feasibility study is completed over the next several months the findings will be presented to Regional Council. If in agreement, an Environmental Assessment (EA) process would be pursued to obtain more input from a wide range of stakeholders including the Public. While this process is underway the Region of Peel will pursue other sites with the Province through the Regional Chair which may be closer to future municipal infrastructure projects and development in the northern parts of Brampton.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

A new Capital Project 11-1531 will be set up for the feasibility study estimated at \$250,000 (excluding applicable taxes) including contingencies, funded from the water stabilization reserve R0241.

CONCLUSION

The Lake Fill Feasibility Study is a significant opportunity to deal with the current industry crisis in disposing of excavated material from Municipal Infrastructure projects in the Region of Peel area. The Study will also allow the Region and its partners to explore how this material could be used as a resource that will benefit the Lakeview community. Through the feasibility study the costs will be refined but it is anticipated that the cost will be neutral with the savings on future Capital Projects, while enhancing the environment and creating beneficial green space for the City of Mississauga and residents.

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Dan Labrecque
Commissioner of Public Works

Approved for Submission:



D. Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer

 For further information regarding this report, please contact Mark Schiller at extension 4394 or via email at mark.schiller@peelregion.ca

Authored By: Mark Schiller

c.  Legislative Services
Manager, Financial Support Unit (FSU)
 J. Macintyre, Director, Purchasing