

Date: 2020-06-04

Subject: **Development Charge Funded Environmental Assessment Study - Intersection Improvements at Heart Lake Road and Countryside Drive**

Contact: Bill Allison, Supervisor, Development Approvals, Public Works and Engineering, (905) 874-2536

Recommendations:

1. **THAT** the report titled: **Development Charge Funded Environmental Assessment Study - Intersection Improvements at Heart Lake Road and Countryside Drive, Ward 2 (Agenda.NET I67/2020)**, to the Committee of Council Meeting of June 17, 2020, be received; and,
2. **THAT** a budget amendment be approved to create a new capital project #203200-001 in the amount of \$300,000.00 to cover the Development Charge Funded Environmental Assessment Study – Intersection Improvements at Heart Lake Road and Countryside Drive. The funding will be transferred from Reserve Fund #137 – DC: Roads.

Overview:

- **The City of Brampton conducted a function and design review study of the Heart Lake Road corridor in 2019 due to high wildlife mortality and to improve traffic operations.**
- **The need for intersection improvements at Heart Lake Road and Countryside Drive was identified as part of the overall operational and safety improvements for this corridor.**
- **A proposed residential development adjacent to this intersection recently approved by LPAT is accelerating the need for the required improvements, thus the urgency for the City’s Capital Works to undertake this process.**

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- **This requires an Environmental Assessment (EA) Study with the satisfactory completion of all requirements of a Schedule 'B' in accordance with the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment document, approved under the Environmental Assessment Act.**
- **This report recommends that Council authorize a budget amendment of \$300,000.00**

Background:

In response to concerns regarding wildlife mortality and traffic operations, and the need for active transportation improvements, the City of Brampton conducted a function and design review study in 2019 of the Heart Lake Road corridor between Sandalwood Parkway East and Mayfield Road. The study provided various recommendations for the Heart Lake Road corridor including improvements to the intersection of Heart Lake Road and Countryside Drive, subject to the completion of an Environmental Assessment Study.

More specifically, the 2019 study identified the opportunity to improve traffic operations at the intersection of Heart Lake Road and Countryside Drive. The study highlighted that consideration of a roundabout should be investigated as part of overall traffic calming recommendations for the Heart Lake Road corridor.

In addition, a proposed residential development (Burnt Log Management Inc.) located at the southeast corner of this intersection was recently approved at the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) (Files OMB 170473, C03E15.010). This has accelerated the requirement for the intersection improvements.

The segment of Heart Lake Road within the study area is located adjacent to the Heart Lake Conservation Area (HLCA). The HLCA is under the jurisdiction of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), and is located on the west side of Heart Lake Road between Sandalwood Parkway East and Mayfield Road. The protection of the natural area adjacent to Heart Lake Road and conservation of the cultural heritage landscape are critical in this study area.

Current Situation:

Heart Lake Road is a north-south minor arterial road, under the jurisdiction of the City, with a 2-lane rural cross-section and a posted speed of 60km/h and a right-of-way width ranging from 26 metres to 30 meters. Countryside Drive is an east-west minor arterial road, also under the jurisdiction of the City, and consists of a 4-lane urban cross-section with a posted speed limit of 60/70 km/hr and a right-of-way width of 30 meters. The

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existing traffic measures in place at the intersection is a stop control sign on Countryside Drive for vehicles travelling westbound and there is no stop control measure in place for vehicles travelling north-south on Heart Lake Road.

To the east of the intersection is the Highway 410. The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has jurisdiction over the lands, which are protected as part of controlled access highway for Highway 410, located on the north and south sides of Countryside Drive up to the intersection of Heart Lake Road. Therefore, consultation with MTO is required as part of this study.

Corporate Implications:

Financial Implications:

A budget amendment will be required for the Development Charge Funded Environmental Assessment Study - Intersection Improvement of Heart Lake Road and Countryside Drive, in the amount of \$300,000.00. Funding will be transferred from Reserve Fund #137 – DC: Roads.

Term of Council Priorities:

This report achieves the Strategic Plan priorities of Smart Growth and Strong Communities by supporting sustainable growth and building a city with vibrant and connected communities for people to live, work and play.

Living the Mosaic – 2040 Vision:

This report supports the following 2040 Visions:

- Vision 1: Sustainability and the Environment, as environmentally sensitive areas are major environmental features, which contribute to sustainability.
- Vision 4: Transportation and Connectivity, as improving intersection design to facilitate safer traffic movement
- Vision 6: Health, as improvements to traffic safety contributes to a healthier environment

Conclusion:

As Brampton continues to grow and traffic volumes increase, this intersection improvement study will provide recommendations to facilitate safer transportation while contributing to the health of the surrounding natural environment. The City's Capital

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Works will be undertaking this study immediately to ensure completion in time for the additional proposed residential traffic volumes. Therefore, staff recommends that the 2020 Capital Budget be amended for the Environmental Assessment Study – Intersection Improvements at Heart Lake Road and Countryside Drive, to be undertaken and funded by the Development Charges Reserve fund.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments:

Appendix A – Location Map

Study Area

