

April 19, 2007

Ms. Ulli Watkiss
City Clerk
City of Toronto
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 2N2

Dear Ms. Watkiss:

At its meeting on Wednesday, April 18, 2007, the Commission considered the attached report entitled, "A New Class Environmental Assessment Process for Transit Projects."

The Commission approved Recommendation No. 1 contained in the report, as listed below:

- "1. Endorse the attached new draft chapter of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) document, which will establish a class EA process for municipal transit projects, noting that:
 - the draft Class Environmental Assessment (EA) process for municipal transit projects was developed with full participation by TTC staff, and is intended to provide a more-streamlined EA process specifically for municipal transit;
 - the new Class EA process for transit will be created by adding a new "chapter" to the Ontario Municipal Engineers Association's Class EA document that already governs three separate classes of projects - municipal roads, water, and wastewater;
 - this new Class EA process will apply to all municipal transit projects except for new or extended subway lines which will continue to follow the more-extensive Individual EA process;
 - with this new Class EA process in place, the time required to complete EA studies for projects such as new Light Rail Transit lines, which must currently follow the Individual EA process, can be reduced by more than one year;
 - the draft new Class EA chapter is being circulated to Ontario municipalities and is being made available to the general public for comment and, based on the current schedule, final approval from the Minister of the Environment is expected in the summer/fall of 2007;
 - the Ministry of the Environment is conducting separate initiatives to find ways to

further reduce the time required for other parts of the EA process, such as when the Minister receives objections to an EA study;”

The Commission amended Recommendation No. 2 by deleting the words “Public Works and Infrastructure” and replacing in lieu thereof “Planning and Growth Management” so such Recommendation reads as follows:

“2. Forward this report to the City of Toronto Planning and Growth Management Committee and, ultimately, Toronto City Council for comment and endorsement.”

The foregoing is forwarded to the City of Toronto Council through the Planning and Growth Management Committee for consideration and endorsement of the new draft chapter of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) document for transit projects.

Sincerely,

Vincent Rodo
General Secretary
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Attachment