



Donation from Trans Canada Trail for Riverdale Sloped Path and Upper Highland Creek Trail Projects

Date: June 11, 2019

To: Infrastructure and Environment Committee

From: General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Wards: Ward 13, Toronto Centre and Ward 24, Scarborough Guildwood

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from City Council to accept a donation and enter into a donor agreement with Trans Canada Trail, a national charity, for capital work on two trail projects being undertaken by the City in collaboration with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA): the Riverdale Sloped Path connection to the Lower Don Trail, and the Upper Highland Creek Trail improvements. In addition, the report recommends that City Council amend Parks, Forestry and Recreation's 2019 Council-approved Capital Budget and future year commitments to add the donated amount to the two sub-projects, amending the project costs and cash flows.

The scope of work includes a new switchback elevated path connecting the Riverdale Footbridge to the Lower Don Trail, and three new trail bridges and associated trail improvements along the Upper Highland Creek in Morningside Park.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, to accept a donation of \$0.300 million from Trans Canada Trail for City-led capital project work including the Riverdale Sloped Path (\$0.100 million) and Upper Highland Creek Trail Improvements (\$0.200 million) in compliance with the City's Policy on Donations for Community Benefits.
2. City Council authorize the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, to negotiate and sign a donor agreement for the \$0.300 million donation from Trans Canada Trail, on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

3. City Council authorize amendments to Parks, Forestry and Recreation's 2019 Council-approved Capital Budget and future year commitments for the following sub-projects:

- a. for the Riverdale Sloped Path (Accessibility - Riverdale and Lower Don Trail) sub-project in the Facility Components project, by increasing the total project cost by \$0.100 million from \$3.000 million to \$3.100 million, and 2020 cash flow from \$1.350 million to \$1.450 million, with funding from the donation.
- b. for the Upper Highland Creek Trail sub-project in the Trails and Pathways project, by increasing the total project cost by \$0.200 million from \$1.400 million to \$1.600 million, and 2019 cash flow from \$0.024 million to \$0.224 million, with funding from the donation.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The 2019 Parks, Forestry and Recreation Council Approved Capital Budget and future year commitments includes \$3.000 million for the Riverdale Sloped Path (Accessibility - Riverdale and Lower Don Trail) and \$0.456 million for the Upper Highland Creek Trail sub-projects.

This report recommends the addition of a donation of \$0.100 million for the Riverdale Sloped Path and \$0.200 million for the Upper Highland Creek Trail. The donation of \$0.100 million for the Riverdale Sloped Path (Accessibility - Riverdale and Lower Don Trail) sub-project, in the Facility Components project will increase the project cost from \$3.000 million to \$3.100 million, and 2020 cash flow from \$1.350 million to \$1.450 million. The project cost for the Upper Highland Creek Trail sub-project, in the Trails and Pathways project, will increase by the \$0.200 million donation from \$1.400 million to \$1.600 million, and 2019 cash flow from \$0.024 million to \$0.224 million.

Operating impacts for the Riverdale Sloped Path and Upper Highland Creek Trail will be submitted through future operating budget submissions.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

City Council, at its meeting of March 7, 2019, approved the 2019 Parks, Forestry and Recreation Capital Budget and future year commitments through item EX2.5 (197-207). <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.EX2.5>

At its meeting on October 30, 31 and November 1, 2012, City Council amended its Donations to the City for Community Benefits policy: <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.EX23.17>

City Council, at its meeting on September 25, 26, 27 and 28, 2006, adopted its Donations to the City for Community Benefits policy.

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2006/agendas/council/cc060925/cofa.pdf>

COMMENTS

The multi-use trail system through Toronto's ravines, hydro corridors and along its waterfront is one of the city's top recreational assets, also serving as an important part of the transportation network for cyclists.

The City, in collaboration with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and other stakeholder groups make continual improvements to the trail system, including improving access points, new trail bridges and underpasses, more accessible trail pathways, and filling gaps in the network.

Two of the current projects include:

Riverdale Sloped Path:

This new elevated switchback structure will create an accessible entrance point to the Lower Don Trail, connecting the existing Riverdale Footbridge (crossing the Don Valley Parkway, Don River and rail corridor) to the Lower Don Trail below. It will complement the existing staircase with a fully accessible sloped path, and will be the only accessible entrance to the Lower Don between Pottery Road in the north and Corktown Common in the south. The work is being undertaken by Parks, Forestry and Recreation's Park Development and Capital Projects branch.

Upper Highland Creek Trail:

Parks, Forestry and Recreation has contracted the TRCA to manage construction of a new multi-use trail connection in the north-west corner of Morningside Park. This trail will connect existing trails in the park to the multi-use trail in the Gatineau Hydro Corridor, near Ellesmere Road, making redundant an on-road detour previously required. The new trail includes three bridges over Upper Highland Creek and accessible pathways.

Both projects are located on the portion of the Trans Canada Trail that runs through Toronto. Trans Canada Trail, a national charity, offers grants through its Capital Improvement Program. The City applied and was awarded \$0.100 million to support the Riverdale Sloped Path and \$0.200 million to support the Upper Highland Creek.

These grant funds, once approved by Council, will augment the existing capital budgets for these two projects. The funds received for the Lower Don project will be used towards the vista rest node at the connection point of the sloped path between directions of the path. The funds received for the Upper Highland project will be used for paving to enable a smooth cycling connection between the three bridges proposed, with one rest node occurring at a vista point just south of the first bridge.

As a charity, Trans Canada Trail does not require a tax receipt for the donation.

Implementation

Upon Council approval of the recommendations in this report, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, Capital Projects staff will proceed to issue a tender for construction through the regular City purchasing process. The tender process assisted by TRCA is proposed to be completed by July 2019 for the Upper Highland Creek Trail project. For the Riverdale Sloped Path project there are some additional engineering studies required and we anticipate this tender later in 2019 or at the beginning of 2020.

CONTACT

Ann-Marie Nasr, Director, Parks Development and Capital Projects, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Tel: 416-395-7899, email: ann-marie.nasr@toronto.ca

Christina Iacovino, Manager, Business Services, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Tel: 416-392-8578, email: christina.iacovino@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Janie Romoff
General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation