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2013 CAPITAL BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

Gardiner Expressway Individual Environmental Assessment

Background

At its meeting on December 12, 2012, Budget Committee approved the following Motion No. 1 in considering the Transportation Services 2013 Recommended Capital Budget and 2013-2022 Recommended Capital Plan for the rehabilitation of the F.G. Gardiner Expressway:

"Request the General Manager, Transportation Services and the Director, Waterfront Secretariat, provide a briefing note to the final Budget wrap-up meeting on January 8, 2013 on what was the decision making process to change the budget to suspend the Gardiner Environmental Assessment."

Gardiner Expressway / Lake Shore Boulevard Reconfiguration Individual Environmental Assessment (EA) & Integrated Urban Design Study

- In July 2008, City Council authorized the City and Waterfront Toronto (WT) to jointly undertake an Individual EA examining Gardiner Expressway and Lake Shore Boulevard reconfiguration options, including an Integrated Urban Design Study to help develop formal EA alternatives. Link to City Council Decision Document – Item EX22.1:
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/cc/decisions/2008-07-15-cc23-dd.pdf>
- As part of the July 2008 authorization, Council also endorsed creation of a Steering Committee co-chaired by the Deputy City Manager whose responsibilities include Waterfront Revitalization, and the President and Chief Executive Officer of Waterfront Toronto, to oversee and direct all aspects of the EA process.
- Council further directed the Waterfront Project Director, in partnership with WT and consultation with the government partners, to report on options for funding implementation of the preferred EA alternative concurrent with consideration of the preferred alternative by City Council.
- The EA study cost of \$7.69 million was funded in the 2009 and 2010 Capital Budgets as part of the City's share of the waterfront revitalization program.
- The EA Terms of Reference was approved by City Council and the Ministry of the Environment in 2009. WT initiated an international design study in early 2010 to inform the EA alternatives.
- In the summer 2010, high-level design concepts for the retain, remove and replace expressway options were prepared in line with the EA Terms of Reference, and included road design as well as city building elements.

- On September 16, 2010, the Gardiner EA Steering Committee, co-chaired by the former Deputy City Manager whose responsibilities include Waterfront Revitalization, and the President and Chief Executive Officer of Waterfront Toronto, agreed that minimal work would proceed on the EA in order to manage study costs until the new administration and Council could be properly briefed.
- In mid-November, 2010, the Steering Committee co-chairs jointly agreed to delay the next step in the EA, which was release of the design concepts, pending direction from the new Council and administration. About \$3.28 million of the total \$7.69 million budget had been spent.
- On March 2, 2011, the former Deputy City Manager whose responsibilities include Waterfront Revitalization was requested by the Chair of Public Works and Infrastructure Committee to draft a letter for him to table at Executive Committee requesting a report on the contractual, financial, regulatory, process and other implications of cancelling or modifying the Gardiner EA study.
- On March 31, 2011, the Waterfront Secretariat, in consultation with City Planning and Transportation Services, provided the Chair with the draft letter for him to table at Executive Committee. The letter was not subsequently tabled at Executive Committee.
- Additional funding was needed in 2011-2012 for George Brown, Queens Quay and East Bayfront revitalization projects, as well as the Port Lands.
- In 2011, WT reallocated the remaining \$4.41 million from the Gardiner EA study as a means of addressing these waterfront priorities through Long Term Funding Plan negotiations between WT and the governments. The Waterfront Long Term Funding Plan process provides the flexibility to fund waterfront projects as needed, including the Gardiner EA study.
- The 2012 Waterfront Revitalization Initiative Capital Budget Analyst Notes submitted to Budget Committee in November 28, 2011 noted that adjustments had been made to the City's funding of numerous projects, including the Gardiner Environmental Assessment, and that the Gardiner Environmental Assessment Studies did not proceed in 2011.
- The Terms of Reference for the Gardiner EA study do not expire so the EA can be resumed at any time pending a reallocation of capital funding.

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