

Lou Di Gironimo, General Manager Toronto Water City Hall 100 Queen Street West 24th Floor, East Tower Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2 **Briefing Note**

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2016 Capital Budget Briefing Note Basement Flooding Protection Program – Program Status Update

Issue:

City Council, through the creation of the City's Basement Flooding Protection Program, has directed staff to reduce the risk of basement flooding across the City through a combination of public drainage system improvements and through the use of policies, by-laws, and incentives to reduce flood risks on private and public properties.

This briefing note provides an update on Toronto Water's efforts to reduce the risk of basement flooding in the City. Specifically, ward by ward progress updates are provided to summarize the progress to date on Environmental Assessment studies, infrastructure upgrades, and private property flood protection device subsidies.

Background:

Basement Flooding Environmental Assessment (EA) Studies

Environment Assessment (EA) studies are used to assess the capacities of the existing storm, sanitary, and combined sewer drainage systems and to recommend upgrades to the existing drainage systems. These studies recommend improvements to the public drainage system infrastructure. Deficiencies in private drainage systems are not identified and not assessed through the City's EA studies.

The Basement Flooding Protection Program was expanded to be City wide following the storm event of July 8, 2013. This expansion resulted in the creation of new EA study areas, bringing the total to 67 study areas. City Council, at its meeting on March 10 and 11, 2015, requested the General Manager, Toronto Water, to initiate and expedite the completion of new Basement Flooding Protection Environmental Assessment studies for the remainder of the City, specifically identified as Study Areas 42 through 67 and in the order of priority as shown in Schedule A to the report (December 18, 2014) from the General Manager, Toronto Water. The Council decision can be viewed at:

http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.EX3.1

Of the 67 City Council approved Basement Flooding Protection Program study areas, Environmental Assessments for twenty six of the study areas have been completed as of September 2015, fifteen are underway with seven planned to be completed in early 2016 (Study areas 20, 21, 23-27) and eight planned for completion in late 2017 (Study areas 34 to 41). The 26 completed Basement Flooding EA studies have recommended an estimated \$1.639 billion of infrastructure improvement projects.

Infrastructure Upgrade Implementation

Infrastructure upgrades to reduce the risk of basement flooding are prioritized and scheduled, as per Council approved criteria to protect the greatest number of properties as soon as possible, within approved budgets, and are coordinated with other capital projects.

A key criteria in the decision to proceed with the detailed design and construction of Basement Flooding Protection Program infrastructure upgrades is the need for projects to cost less than \$32,000 per benefitting property. This criteria was adopted by City Council at its meeting of September 21, 2011. The adopted staff report can be found at: <u>http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaltemHistory.do?item=2011.PW7.6</u>

Projects that meet the \$32,000 per benefitting property requirement, at the completion of preliminary design, are moved into detailed design and construction. Projected to the end of 2015, approximately \$237 million of infrastructure upgrades will have been constructed within the Basement Flooding Protection Program. This value of construction represents approximately 14% of the total value of the improvements that have been recommended by the EA studies so far.

While many projects meet the \$32,000 cost per benefitting property criteria, there are also many projects that do not meet the cost per benefitting property. Of the \$1.639 billion of recommended infrastructure improvement projects identified to date, approximately \$887 million or 54% of the total value did not meet the \$32,000 cost per benefitting property criteria. These projects are not being scheduled for implementation within the 5 year capital plan, in accordance with City Council direction.

The remaining \$515 million of recommended infrastructure projects are in various stages of implementation. These stages include being within the design process (i.e. preliminary design and/or detailed design stages), and being planned to begin the design process.

Basement Flooding Protection Subsidy Program

The City's Basement Flooding Protection Subsidy Program (BFPSP) offers property owners of single-family, duplex and triplex residential homes financial assistance of up to \$3,400 per property to install flood protection devices, including a backwater valve, sump pump, and pipe severance and capping of the home's storm sewer or external weeping tile.

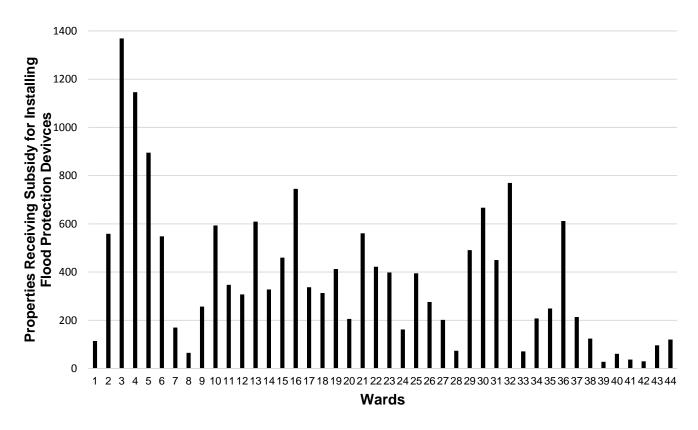
The Basement Flooding Protection Subsidy Program (BFPSP) was initially created for homeowners in response to the May 12, 2000 storm event, and was initially known as the "Voluntary Private Home Isolation from Public Sewer System Program". As a result of properties being impacted by subsequent storm events including the August 14,

2003, August 19, 2005 and May 17, 2006 storm events, the program was expanded City wide. City Council at its meeting in July 2006 adopted a report to expand the program City-wide and requested the General Manager of Toronto Water to incorporate funding to support the Program in its 2007 Capital Budget submission. The Council decision can be viewed at:

http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2006/agendas/council/cc060725/pof6rpt/cl041.pdf

Since the subsidy program was expanded City wide in 2006, over 16,500 applications have been approved with over \$27,300,000 in total subsidy payments issued to property owners by Toronto Water as of the end of September 2015. On average, the City currently issues approximately \$1,600 in subsidy payments to participating properties. The number of subsidy applications approved by the City have varied considerably from ward to ward as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Number of Properties Receiving a Subsidy for Installing Flood Protection Devices by Ward



Key Points:

Progress in the Basement Flooding Protection Program varies considerably from ward to ward. This briefing note provides a ward by ward summary in Schedule A and highlights the accomplishments achieved to date. Specifically, the progress regarding EA studies, construction of infrastructure upgrades, and participation in the subsidy program is provided. The summary for each City ward includes:

- A map showing the limits of each ward, the private properties that have installed flood protection devices, and the boundaries for the EA studies along with different shading to identify the portions of each ward where EA studies have been completed, are ongoing, and still need to be started;
- A pie chart and table illustrating the proportion of each ward where an EA study has been completed, is ongoing, and is planned to begin in the future.
- A pie chart illustrating the status of the infrastructure improvement works that were recommended through the already completed EA studies. The chart is subdivided into five categories, namely 'Constructed', 'Under Construction', 'Design Process Initiated', 'Planned for Design Initiation', and 'Deferred Projects'. To align with the typical budgeting cycle, expected construction costs to the end of the 2015 calendar year have been estimated. The provided charts are representative of the portions of the ward where EA studies have been completed. Infrastructure improvement costs for the portions of the ward not yet studied are not estimated within the provided values.
- As projects move though the implementation process, cost estimates are updated and replaced with actual costs resulting in variations in the values from year to year.
- Bar charts are provided to illustrate the accomplishments of the City's Basement Flooding Protection Subsidy Program, which provides financial assistance to pay for some of the costs of installing flood protection devices. Both program participation and program expenditure summaries are provided.

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