



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### Steeles Avenue East Grade Separation Environmental Assessment – Principles of a Cost Sharing Agreement with The Regional Municipality of York and Metrolinx

<b>Date:</b>	March 30, 2016
<b>To:</b>	Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
<b>From:</b>	General Manager, Transportation Services
<b>Wards:</b>	Ward 39 – Scarborough-Agincourt; Ward 41 Scarborough-Rough River
<b>Reference Number:</b>	P:\2016\Cluster B\TRA\TIM\pw16005tim.docx

#### SUMMARY

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The City of Toronto is carrying out a Schedule C Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) that will evaluate alternatives for a grade separated crossing at Steeles Avenue East and the Stouffville GO Transit Rail Corridor. A widening of Steeles Avenue East from 4 to 6 lanes from Kennedy Road to Midland Avenue will also be considered.

The future implementation of this project will improve the movement of road and rail traffic in The Regional Municipality of York (York Region), the City of Toronto and along Metrolinx’s Stouffville GO Transit Rail Corridor. Recognizing the multitude of interests in both the Class EA and the implementation of the project, this report is requesting authority to negotiate, enter into and execute an agreement with York Region and Metrolinx for the cost-sharing of the Municipal Class EA.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. City Council authorize the General Manager, Transportation Services, to negotiate, enter into and execute an agreement with The Regional Municipality of York and Metrolinx for the cost-sharing of the Schedule C Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for the Steeles Avenue East grade separation at the Stouffville GO Transit Rail Corridor on terms and conditions generally as set out in this report and

on such other terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager of Transportation Services and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

## **Financial Impact**

There are no additional funding implications resulting from the adoption of this report.

Should City Council grant authority to negotiate, enter into and execute an agreement to share the costs of the Municipal Class EA with York Region and Metrolinx, the City's portion of the costs for the EA study would be \$170,369.67 excluding all applicable taxes and charges. This assumes a 33.33% contribution of the total costs from each of the three parties, representing a total cost for the EA study of \$511,109.01, excluding all applicable taxes and charges.

Funding is available for the full cost of the Municipal Class EA study in the 2016 Capital Budget and 2017-2025 Capital Plan for Transportation Services.

The Deputy City Manager & Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

On September 25, 2015, Bid Committee granted authority for City staff to award Request for Proposal No. 9121-15-7194 to LEA Consulting Ltd. in the amount of \$511,109.00 excluding all applicable taxes and charges. Lea Consulting Ltd. will support the City's preparation of the Municipal Class EA.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.BD49.4>

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

The Stouffville GO Transit Rail Corridor intersects Steeles Avenue East between Kennedy Road and Midland Avenue. The existing level crossing limits the movement of pedestrians, cyclists, transit and vehicles in the area. There are daily issues of congestion and many road users experience difficulties travelling along and across Steeles Avenue East. Congestion is anticipated to increase as a result of Metrolinx's Regional Express Rail initiative, which contemplates an increased frequency of service along the Stouffville GO Transit Rail Corridor.

To address the congestion along this section of Steeles Avenue East, the City is carrying out a Schedule C Municipal Class EA that will evaluate alternatives for a grade separated crossing of the rail corridor and additional transportation network capacity on Steeles Avenue East, in the form of a widening of vehicle lanes from 4 to 6 lanes from Kennedy Road to Midland Avenue. Provisions for bicycle lanes and pedestrian amenities, including a grade separated pedestrian crossing of Steeles Avenue East will be considered.

The Class EA study will update previous studies completed for this rail crossing, including a 1994 EA and 2004 EA Addendum. The recommendations included in these studies were not implemented as a result of funding constraints and the validity of the EA's has since expired.

The planned grade separation and road widening will benefit traffic conditions in the boundary areas between the City of Toronto and York Region. A grade separation of rail and vehicular traffic will also offer significant benefits to GO Transit operations on the Stouffville GO Transit Rail Corridor.

York Region and Metrolinx have both expressed an interest in partnering with the City on the Municipal Class EA and have each agreed in principle to fund a one third (1/3) share of the study costs. In the case of York Region, authorization has been sought and obtained from Regional Council to negotiate, enter into and execute an agreement with the City and Metrolinx.

The following principles will be used to form the basis of negotiations for the Municipal Class EA cost sharing agreement:

1. The City will continue to lead and be the sole proponent of the Municipal Class EA study;
2. York Region and Metrolinx will be provided opportunities to provide input into the study; and
3. Each party will provide one-third (1/3) cost share contribution to the study undertaking cost, estimated to be \$511,109.00 excluding all applicable taxes and charges.

The agreement will set out a payment schedule and contain provisions that set out how any additional and unforeseen costs over and above the contract award value are allocated amongst the various parties.

## **NEXT STEPS**

With authority provided, City staff will negotiate a cost-sharing agreement on such other terms and conditions deemed satisfactory by the General Manager, Transportation Services and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

## **CONTACT**

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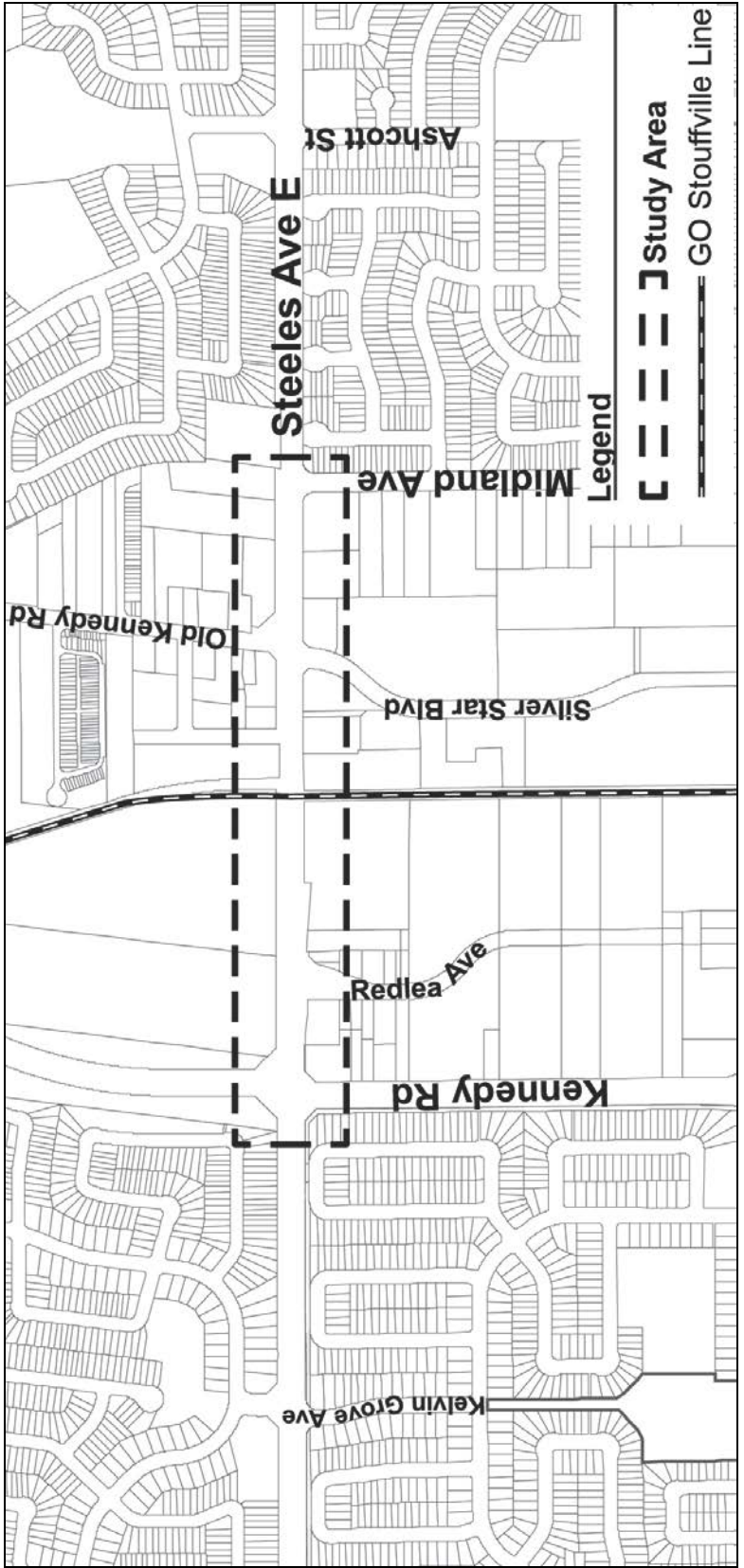
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## **SIGNATURE**

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Stephen Buckley  
General Manager, Transportation Services

Attachment 1: Municipal Class EA Study Area



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