

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM11.11	ACTION			Ward: All
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Accelerating the Environmental Assessment Process for Flood Mitigation Projects - by Councillor Frances Nunziata, seconded by Councillor James Pasternak

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Frances Nunziata, seconded by Councillor James Pasternak, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Province of Ontario to develop an accelerated environmental assessment process for public projects aimed to reduce the risk of flooding on public or private property.

Summary

On May 13, 2019 Premier Doug Ford spoke in the Legislature about the Ontario government's commitment to improving resilience to flooding. John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, echoed the Premier's statement adding that "[their] number one priority is the safety of the public and the protection of communities and private property."

Residents throughout the City have been waiting for years for upgrades to municipal infrastructure that will help reduce the risk of flooding to both public and private property. Basement Flooding Investigation Environmental Assessments have been carried out throughout the City to develop plans to reduce the risk of flooding. In some cases these Environmental Assessments, some of which are still underway, have taken years to complete.

In 2008, Transit Projects Regulation – O. Reg. 231/08 was introduced in an effort to speed up the delivery of transit projects in Ontario. With the implementation of this regulation, transit projects are now exempt from the requirements to conduct individual or class Environmental Assessments and are instead subject to the much shorter Transit Project Assessment Process which takes six months to complete.

Communities throughout the City and across Ontario would benefit from a similar process so that measures to reduce the risk of flooding can proceed to design and eventually construction as soon as possible.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM11.11