

Date: Tuesday July 16, 2024

Meeting Type: In Person – Birchmount Community Centre

Start time: 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Objectives:

Receive feedback on the content of the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) via a page turn of the document.

Meeting Overview:

The meeting was facilitated by Anneliese Grieve from Strategic Environmental Planning Solutions (SEPS) and Nick Crockford from Morrison Hershfield. Anneliese guided attendees through each section of the ToR providing an opportunity to discuss, ask questions, and make edits to the document.

Discussion

NOTE: The below captures general discussions, comments, and questions raised by attendees but does not describe how these will be addressed in the ToR. Revisions to the ToR will be captured in a revised version of the document that will be posted online in Fall 2024.

- Suggestions
 - Ensure notification for the Notice of Submission follows similar protocols and reaches the largest audience possible. Signage was effective for the consultation events and should be considered for providing additional information about the project, not just the events.
- Comments
 - Add City of Toronto Approvals to Section 1.4 Other Approvals
 - Project Vision: Given the shoreline is already heavily altered, is “natural features” accurate language to use? Perhaps add more discussion around the altered nature of the shoreline.
 - Project Objectives: Clarify that they are not listed in order of importance or weighted in anyway. That all objectives are being considered equally.
 - Tablelands is not a well-known term, add a definition to the document.
 - Section 2.5.3.2: Project opportunity for access is to connect neighbourhoods that currently feel disconnected. Includes the opportunity for economic development by connecting to Kingston Road.

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- The beaches and Bluffer's are both well used but nothing happens in between. Project needs to consider if it's a destination itself, or if its just a linear connection with access points.
- Safety and security are huge issues in areas like the beaches and Bluffer's. By adding new access points, are we potentially just spreading those problems throughout?
- The EA can't instruct the TTC how to operate or add routes, instead we will try to create opportunities for connections.
- Look for opportunities to enhance active transportation overall (i.e., bikeshares, other connections, connections to economic areas like Kingston Road).
- Slope stability and shoreline protection are key issues for the public, especially around erosion. Perhaps a need to better explain what can be managed and what cannot so that the public has the right expectations.
- Add Silver Birch Boat House to list of Community Facilities.
- Add more clarity that a connection to the Martin Goodman Trail will be explored. Its not clear enough in the document.
- Section 5.3.2.6: Consider adding data from Opewaterdata.com, a site similar to Strava that open water swimmers use to track their swims.
- Section 5.3.3.1:
 - Change "residents" to "users" when referring to issues at Secret Beach.
 - Not all sections of the project mention trespassing but it is an issue throughout the study area. Especially Warden to Birchmount.
- Questions
 - Who comments on the document and how long do they have to comment on it?
 - The public has 30 days to comment on the document during the draft review period. This comment period ends on August 7, 2024.
 - MECP, government agencies (federal and provincial) and Treaty Holders/Indigenous communities may request additional time to review beyond the 30 days.

- There will be another opportunity to provide comments on the final document during the ToR submission process that will occur in the fall of 2024.
- Why is the federal government not involved at this stage?
 - Specific federal government ministries/organizations are given the opportunity to comment and participate; however, generally they are only interested in being involved in projects when an application for a permit has been submitted. This will occur at a much later stage of this project, should the City advance a future preferred alternative to detailed design.
- Is the Wet Weather Flow Master Plan a living document?
 - No. Master Plans are not living documents; however, implementation plans for the Master Plan certainly can be living documents.
- Section 2.6 notes a target EA approval date for 2027, can that be advanced at all?
 - There are several key components to an EA that determine the length of time required. There are several review periods by MECP that can take many months, plus we want to provide lots of opportunities to consult with the public. We feel that 2027 is appropriate given our experience. Where feasible, and within the control of the project team, we are moving the project forward as quickly as we can.

Attendees

CAG Members:

- Bluffers Park Boating Foundation
- Cycle Toronto
- Surfing Community
- Toronto Lakefront Community
- Waterfront for All
- *Regrets: Black North Initiative, Cliffcrest Scarborough Village SW Residents Association, Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities, Scarborough Greenway Network Project, Swim Drink Fish, Toronto Field Naturalists, Unbounded, Waterfront Regeneration Trust*

City of Toronto:

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- Jennifer Hyland, Transportation, Capital Projects and Program

TRCA:

- Amy Roots, Special Projects
- John Hunkin, Special Projects

Consultants:

- (Host) Anneliese Grieve, Strategic Environmental Planning Solutions
- (Host) Nick Crockford, Morrison Hershfield, now Stantec