

Date: January 21, 2022

To: Chair and Members of General Committee

From: Geoff Wright, P.Eng, MBA, Commissioner of
Transportation and Works

Originator's files:

Meeting date:
February 9, 2022

Subject

**Dundas Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Mississauga East - Transit Project Assessment Process
(Wards 1, 3, 4 and 7)**

Recommendation

1. That the report titled "Dundas Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Mississauga East - Transit Project Assessment Process (Wards 1, 3, 4 and 7)", dated January 21, 2022, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works be received;
2. That the draft Environmental Project Report and the preferred solution for the Dundas Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), dated January 21, 2022, be endorsed by Council.
3. That staff be directed to publish the "Notice of Study Completion" for the study in the local newspaper and to place the Environmental Project Report on the public record for a 30-day review period in accordance with the Transit Project Assessment Process.
4. That any Dundas BRT project capital infrastructure implementation within Cooksville (between Camilla Road and Confederation Parkway) be deferred until staff report back to Council on an updated design assessment.
5. That all necessary by-laws be enacted.

Executive Summary

- The City of Mississauga and Metrolinx working in collaboration, have initiated the Transit Project Assessment Process (TPAP) under Ontario Regulation 231/08 for the Dundas BRT Mississauga East segment (Confederation Parkway to Etobicoke Creek) with the issuance of the Notice of Commencement on December 10, 2021.
- In the subsequent regulated period, proponent consultation on the preferred project and the development of the Environmental Project Report have been undertaken.
- The Notice of Completion will be published on February 22, 2022 and the Environmental Project Report will be made available for a final public review, prior to a Ministerial Review

- The Dundas BRT Mississauga East segment (Confederation Parkway to Etobicoke Creek) supports the City of Mississauga's funding application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP).

Background

In 2018, City of Mississauga completed the Dundas Connects Master Plan, which established a transportation and planning vision for Dundas Street through a comprehensive consultation process and that was undertaken to meet the requirements of Phases 1 and 2 of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Planning Process.

The City of Mississauga subsequently approved the report titled "Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program - Public Transit and Community, Culture and Recreation Funding Applications" to Budget Committee on October 2, 2019 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer, to support an application for implementation funding to the Public Transit Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) focussed on developing bus priority infrastructure for a 7 km segment of the Dundas Street Corridor from Confederation Parkway to the Etobicoke boundary.

The City of Mississauga, as set out in the report "Request for Authority to Enter into Cost Sharing Agreement with Metrolinx to undertake the Dundas Bus Rapid Transit Corridor Preliminary Design and Transit Project Assessment Process" to Council on July 8, 2020 from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works, is collaborating with Metrolinx in the review of a 48km stretch of Dundas Street from Highway 6 in the City of Hamilton to the Kipling Transit Hub in the City of Toronto, including through the City of Mississauga. The Dundas Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) review will be looking at the whole corridor but will focus on completing outstanding Environmental Assessment reviews through three separate segments that cover Toronto, Mississauga East and Mississauga West.

Comments

The City of Mississauga working in conjunction with Metrolinx, formally initiated the Transit Project Assessment Process (TPAP), a streamlined Environmental Assessment process under Ontario Regulation 231/08 on December 10, 2021 with the issuance of a Notice of Commencement to assess the Mississauga East segment of Dundas Street between Confederation Parkway and the Etobicoke Creek.

TPAP is a focused environmental impact assessment process created specifically for transit projects. It involves a pre-planning phase followed by a regulated engagement and documentation period once the Notice of Commencement has been issued, which includes engagement with the public, stakeholders and Indigenous groups, assessment of impacts, development of measures to mitigate negative impacts, and documentation. Following these phases, there is a 30-day public review period where the public has the opportunity to review the Environmental Project Report (EPR) and provide additional comments, followed by a 35-day Minister's review period.

A TPAP makes sure that the natural, social, cultural, and economic environments are assessed and potential adverse effects from the proposed project are avoided, mitigated, or minimized where feasible. TPAPs are regulated under the Environmental Assessment Act, and are submitted for the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' review prior to being able to proceed with the implementation of a transit project.

The Dundas Connects Master Plan (2018) established the underlying transportation and planning vision for Dundas Street. For this current phase of work, pre-planning and initial consultation was undertaken through online virtual public engagement sessions held in 2021 along with separate Technical Advisory Group and Stakeholder Advisory Group meetings and circulation to Indigenous groups. The first engagement round of the Pre-Planning phase was held between April 19th to April 30th, to provide a project overview and gather input on the process and evaluation criteria. A second engagement round was also held between September 2nd to September 23rd, with a live online session on September 22nd. The second engagement round reported on the existing environmental conditions and provided an initial assessment for design considerations, specifically within the physically constrained areas of Cooksville and Erindale Valley.

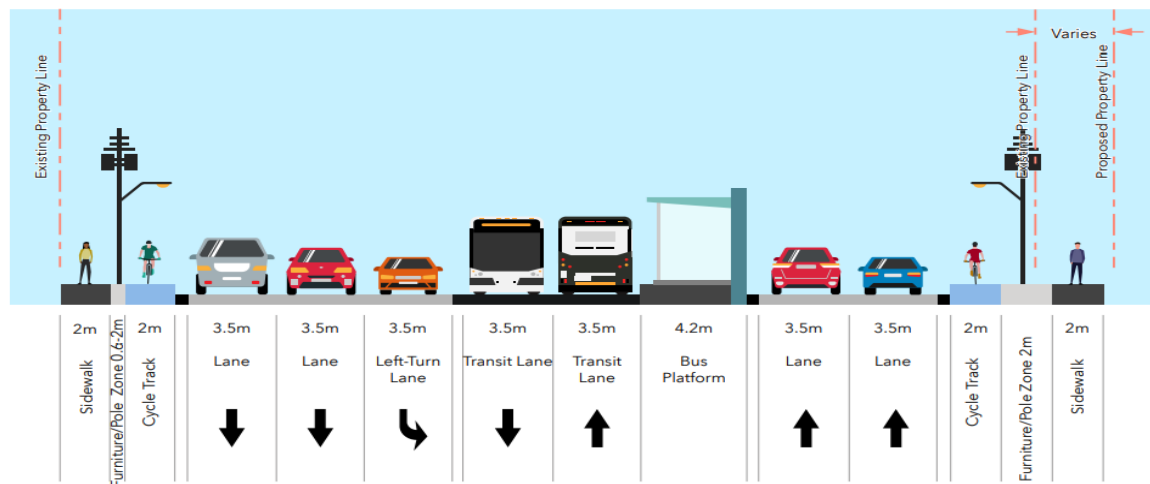
While the Mississauga West and Toronto segments of the Dundas BRT Study are still being developed with further public engagement proposed near the end of 2022, TPAP has been initiated for the Dundas BRT Mississauga East with the issuance of the Notice of Commencement on December 10 2021. The Dundas BRT Mississauga East was specifically expedited as part of the initial work plan to support the City's funding application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). The ICIP funding, once approved, comes with a commitment to have work completed by 2027 and subsidies cannot be used for purpose of land acquisition.

The TPAP approval is an important milestone for achieving the ICIP schedule as it: identifies environmental commitments for implementation that must be incorporated into the procurement documents, which are commencing development in Summer 2022; enables design for utility work to commence in Spring 2022 and commencement of selected high risk utility work to be advanced; and is required to support any required property acquisition to commence in Spring 2022 in order for it to be completed by Spring 2024 in time for potential construction to commence.

The regulated proponent consultation phase required for the Dundas BRT Mississauga East TPAP occurred through an online virtual public engagement held between January 18th to February 1st, with a live online session held on January 27th. Available materials included: a description of the Bus Rapid Transit project along with a preliminary design for the corridor; a summary of the environmental impacts of the project have been assessed and evaluated along with proposed measures identified to mitigate impacts, where feasible.

A preliminary design of the corridor has been developed to a level of detail in order to assess the environmental impacts. The preferred design solution included a context sensitive approach utilizing the Official Plan road right-of-way. The typical roadway cross section shown on Figure 1 includes two traffic lanes in each direction, two dedicated median bus rapid transit lanes, intersection left turn lanes and far side transit stop platforms at selected locations, and an enhance boulevard space with directional cycle tracks. The preferred design is to be refined further through the subsequent completion of the preliminary design phase which will confirm the extent of the property requirements necessary for Dundas BRT implementation. Property requirements for the Dundas BRT will be subject to funding approval and will continue to be acquired in coordination with future development applications as identified in the Official Plan.

Figure 1 – Typical Cross Section



The range of comments received through the public engagement included support for opportunities to expand and improve cycling facilitates, providing faster and more reliable transit and providing connections to other key hubs and services. A sample of the concerns were raised included impacts to private properties, noise and vibration impacts, accommodating traffic flows and preserving existing buildings and community culture.

Implementation funding and related project phasing is not generally a factor of the environmental assessment review process. However, based upon the current level of design developed for the TPAP, the existing municipal funding allocated for land acquisition associated with the ICIP submission would not be sufficient to address the anticipated project implementation requirements at this time. In addition, Ward 7 Councillor Dipika Damerla has specifically raised concerns regarding the design vision for Dundas BRT through Cooksville and a desire to enhance walkability in the community. Through meetings with the Councillor, the City intends to defer any Dundas BRT capital infrastructure implementation within Cooksville (between Camilla Road and Confederation Parkway) until staff report back to Council on an updated design assessment. Any Dundas BRT capital or property funding approvals impacting

Cooksville would go through Council and the City will continue to acquire lands in coordination with future development applications as identified by the Official Plan.

During the regulated proponent consultation phase, the Dundas BRT Mississauga East Environmental Project Report (EPR) has been developed which details the summary provided through the public engagement with: a statement of purpose and description of the transit project, including the preliminary design for the corridor; the environmental impacts of the project have been assessed and evaluated along with commitments to measures identified to mitigate impacts, where feasible. The consultation process with public engagement activities and comments are documented in the EPR. The EPR also includes appendices on studies undertaken to support the project which are:

- Air Quality Impact Assessment Report
- Arborist Report
- Climate Change and Sustainability Report
- Cultural Heritage Report
- Limited Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment Report
- Natural Environmental Report
- Socio-Economic and Land Use Report
- Stage 1 Archaeology Report
- Noise and Vibration Report

The executive summary of the draft EPR is attached as **Appendix 1**.

Subject to Council endorsement of the draft EPR and the preferred solution for the Dundas BRT Mississauga East, and in accordance with the timeline prescribed by Ontario Regulation 231/08, a Notice of Completion will be published in the local newspaper and mailed to area property owners and technical agencies on February 22, 2022. As per the TPAP requirements, the completed EPR with associated appendices will then be made available for a 30-day public review period in order to allow for additional public comments, followed by a 35-day Minister's review period. A final Statement of Completion will be issued when all stages of TPAP have been completed and the final project details will be summarized for the public when future Dundas BRT meetings are held later this year.

Financial Impact

The collaboration between the City of Mississauga and Metrolinx to undertake TPAP and the preliminary design for Dundas Street is fully funded through PN19-107 Dundas BRT TPAP.

Conclusion

The City of Mississauga and Metrolinx working in collaboration, have initiated the formal Transit Project Assessment Process (TPAP) under Ontario Regulation 231/08 for the Dundas BRT Mississauga East segment (Confederation Parkway to Etobicoke Creek) with the issuance of the Notice of Commencement on December 10, 2021

The Dundas BRT Mississauga East (Confederation Parkway to Etobicoke Creek) supports the City of Mississauga's \$305 Million Capital funding application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

In the subsequent regulated consultation period of TPAP, public, agency, interested stakeholders and indigenous groups have been consulted on the preferred project and the development of the Environmental Project Report (EPR) has been undertaken.

Subject to Council endorsement of the draft EPR and the preferred solution for the Dundas BRT Mississauga East, and in accordance with the timeline prescribed by Ontario Regulation 231/08, a Notice of Completion will be published on February 22, 2022. As per the TPAP requirements, the completed EPR with associated appendices will then be made available for a 30-day public review period in order to allow for additional public comments, followed by a 35-day Minister's review period. A final Statement of Completion will be issued when all stages of TPAP have been completed and the final project details will be summarized for the public when future Dundas BRT meetings are held later this year.

Attachments

Appendix1: Draft Dundas BRT Mississauga East Environmental Project Report - Executive Summary



Geoff Wright, P.Eng, MBA, Commissioner of Transportation and Works

Prepared by: Matthew Williams, Project Leader