AECOM Canada Ltd.
105 Commerce Valley Drive West, 7th Floor
Markham, ON L3T 7W3
Canada

T: 905.886.7022
F: 905.538.8076
www.aecom.com

Project Name: Western/Sarnia/Phillip Aziz EA

Date of Meeting: September 18, 2023
Time: 3 pm to 4 pm
Project #: 60714061
Location: Microsoft Teams

Attendees: Marnie Shepley, City of London
Andrew Denomme, City of London
Steven Funk, City of London
Scott Gillingwater, UTRCA
Jessica Schnaithmann, UTRCA
Sandy Levin, EEPAC
Josh Ackworth, AECOM
Olga Hropach, AECOM
Kathy RobitailleFieck, AECOM
Katie Easterling, AECOM
Kathy Robitaille-Feick, AECOM
Jenn Christie, AECOM

Prepared By: AECOM

Emily Williamson, City of London
Absent: John Pucchio, AECOM

Regarding: **EIS Scoping Meeting Consultation – Western/Sarnia/Phillip Aziz EA Detailed Design**

# Minutes of Meeting

| | Action |
|---|---|
| Introductions | |
| 1. General introduction of the project team was completed. | INFO |
| Safety Minute | |
| 1. Safety minute discussing mental health was completed. | INFO |
| Project Background | |
| 1. AECOM initiated consultation, site reviews, and conceptual design work as part of an original Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) between 2015 to 2016 for this same study area. The project was placed on hold in 2016 to consider alternatives for Rapid Transit routes through the study area. Rapid transit routes have been deferred and City has chosen to reactivate project.<br>2. Project background was presented for work previously completed in support of the 2015 EA as described in the attached slideshow presentation. | INFO |
| Natural Heritage Scope of Work | |

**PLEASE NOTE: If this report does not agree with your records of the meeting, or if there are any omissions, please advise, otherwise we will assume the contents to be correct.**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Natural Heritage Scope of Work completed in 2021 was discussed for the study area including EIS triggers, agency consultations, SAR, and field investigations.<br>2. Natural Heritage Scope of Work completed in 2023 and proposed for 2024 as part of the Detailed Design were discussed including background review, agency requests and consultations, field investigations, and preferred alternative design. | INFO<br><br>INFO |
| EIS Report Template | |
| 1. An outline of the proposed EIS Report Table of Contents was presented and is provided in the attached slideshow presentation. | INFO |
| Preferred Solution | |
| 1. Preferred alternative design was presented for stormwater drainage sewers for Western Road, Phillip Aziz Avenue, and Sarnia Road and outlets into the Thames River. | INFO |
| Questions/Discussion | |
| 1. UTRCA commented that the water levels within the Thames River changes with the seasons and London has had a very wet August and July 2023 and that contributed to higher water levels. Mud flats within the study area were still prominent throughout June 2023 for nesting habitat. Three Spiny Softshell and two to three Snapping Turtles were observed within study area in June 2023 by UTRCA staff (pictures provided by Scott Gillingwater). South facing mudflats provide basking habitat and cover habitat for turtle species, the same attributes present within the nursery habitat in question. Protection of these mudflats as much as possible was requested to be considered during the design and construction phases.<br>2. UTRCA noted mitigation measures could include working 50 m downstream of turtle nursery and current outlet to avoid impact to mudflats, be mindful working in the study area and avoid walking on mudflats as humans and machinery could cause turtle and nest mortality.<br>3. City of London confirmed satisfaction with the EIS Scoping Checklist provided and no revisions will be required. AECOM to provide more detail on monitoring plan including SAR observations and protocols during construction activities within confirmation email to City for final EIS Scoping Checklist approval.<br>4. City of London asked if detailed design had considered maintaining current sediment deposition from current Thames River outfall in the study area or if it is expected turtles will move to other sediment depositions within adjacent areas. AECOM responded that the Western Road outfall upstream of the Phillip Aziz outfall will be maintained so water will still be flowing into the site from that outfall. Existing outfall is 350mm diameter and new outfall will be 1200mm in diameter, which is a significant increase in size.<br>5. City of London asked if the preferred design would maintain existing habitat and site conditions or propose restoration. AECOM responded the hope is to maintain habitat conditions and that the geofluvial assessment will look at sedimentation patterns to try to retain habitat based on flow patterns. UTRCA responded that retention of the mudflat habitat is ideal as sunlit muddy spots along the Thames River is rare and that the rocky island upstream created a | INFO<br><br>AECOM<br><br>AECOM<br><br>INFO<br><br>INFO |

| | |
|---|---|
| sheltered bay as water is pushed around the site creating ideal habitat for Spiny Softshell. | |
| 6. AECOM asked if since mudflat habitat is not permanent and fluctuates based on water, sedimentation, and vegetation conditions, would this dynamic habitat not be more common as habitat disappears and appears somewhere else along the Thames. UTRCA responded turtles are mobile species and that more ideal habitat spots are better for maintaining the turtle population. | INFO |
| 7. EEPAC asked if vegetation removal was necessary given the new outfalls larger size and capacity and noted that possibility of another mudflat to appear is low based on potential vegetation removal. AECOM responded mudflats are a result of sedimentation and erosion of banks from the outfall channel. The new outfall will have a new channel and different sedimentation patterns. | INFO |
| 8. EEPAC asked about ecological value of sedimentation and if new outfall will create new mudflat. AECOM responded ideally the existing mudflat would be preserved and this is the reason why the preferred design would re-align the outfall to avoid the existing mudflat and turtle nursery. Feasibility of maintaining some of the runoff from the old outlet in addition to the new outlet is unknown as the current 350mm outlet is in poor condition. Maintenance and monitoring may be required to fully understand and limit impacts to riparian areas, nursery habitat, fisheries, and SAR within the Thames River. | AECOM |
| 9. EEPAC asked if trench or degradation drilling construction activities are proposed. AECOM responded open cut construction activities are anticipated but parameters and requirements will be set during future permitting application process due to in-water works. | AECOM |
| 10. UTRCA asked what in-water protection measures would be implemented during construction activities. AECOM responded for fisheries SAR it is recommended that sheet piles be used as protection zones and exclusion fencing so wildlife including turtles and aquatic SAR cannot access work area via land and water. A qualified ecologist will be present on site each day during in-water works to conduct visual checks for SAR and wildlife before starting each construction works and be present for constant monitoring in case relocation of wildlife is necessary. | AECOM |
| 11. AECOM asked for clarity on turtle brumation period and timing. UTRCA confirmed turtle brumation period is October to early April but noted that anytime between September 15 and May 1 turtles could be at brumation sites. | INFO |
| 12. AECOM noted construction timing windows for in-water works in small to capture turtle, fish and mussel restriction periods. Construction works will likely occur between July and early September. UTRCA noted that Spiny Softshells and Snapping Turtles will require surveys before construction works begin and if shallow waters are present within site then the entire site will need to be searched with raccooning techniques. UTRCA to provide language for mitigation measures should it be requested. | AECOM / UTRCA |
| 13. AECOM noted potential queensnake habitat was discussed during August 2021 site visit with UTRCA due to shoreline habitat. Snakes are mobile species and have the ability to travel through area and visual observations and area searches will be conducted prior to construction works. UTRCA noted no | AECOM |

| | |
|---|---|
| confirmed records of queensnake in the area however that is good quality habitat upstream of the study area. Exclusion fencing is not ideal for queensnakes but it is still recommended along with visual searches under root masses, grasses, and geotextile cloth within the study area as queensnakes are known to spend time in damp areas along the edge of rivers. | |
| 14. AECOM noted that SAR awareness training will be provided to contractors. UTRCA suggested that Salthaven Wildlife Rehabilitation contact information be provided as well should injured wildlife be found on site. | AECOM |
| 15. City of London noted project timing schedules, permitting requirements, and proposed targets of Phase I construction of outlet for 2024. AECOM responded anticipated construction is summer 2024 however constructions works are pending receipt of DFO, SARA, and ESA permits. | AECOM |
| 16. UTRCA requested preliminary plans and drawing documents for UTRCA review. AECOM to provide EA document access to Jessica (UTRCA) and Jessica to circulate documents to UTRCA planning team. | AECOM |
| 17. UTRCA asked about outfall location relative to bottom of slope and if outfall location could be relocated further away from the Thames River and the 250-year flood plan line. | AECOM |
| 18. UTRCA requested clarity on concept design and decision-making process for new outfall location. UTRCA requested to be included on future planning process. AECOM to set up specific meeting regarding outfall design with UTRCA (Jessica) and City of London Transportation/SWM/Ecologists and AECOM design team. | AECOM |
| 19. City of London asked about offsetting requirements for DFO. AECOM responded further discussion is required but that no permanent structures are anticipated for the channel and therefore no authorizations are required, only temporary work permits. SAR permits to handle potential SAR aquatics during salvage will be required. Potential issues could arise with MECP due to Silver Shiner riparian protection requirements. | AECOM |
| Conclusion | |
| 1. AECOM to provide meeting minutes and circulate to project team for approval. | AECOM |
| 2. AECOM to submit finalized EIS Scoping Checklist and email detailing monitoring plan for formal approval from City of London. | AECOM |
| 3. AECOM to set-up further project meetings with City of London and UTRCA staff to discuss detailed design and outfall re-alignment decision making process. | AECOM |

**PLEASE NOTE: If this report does not agree with your records of the meeting, or if there are any omissions, please advise, otherwise we will assume the contents to be correct.**