

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS CIVIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING ON JULY 18, 2016
FROM:	JOHN BRAAM, P.ENG. MANAGING DIRECTOR, ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND CITY ENGINEER
SUBJECT:	SOUTHDALE ROAD WEST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT BOLER ROAD TO WICKERSON ROAD APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTING ENGINEER

RECOMMENDATION

That on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Environmental & Engineering Services and City Engineer, the following actions **BE TAKEN** with respect to the appointment of a consultant for the Environmental Assessment for Southdale Road West, between Boler Road and Wickerson Road Study:

- (a) Dillon Consulting Limited, **BE APPOINTED** Consulting Engineers to complete the Environmental Assessment in the amount of \$228,855 (excluding HST), in accordance with Section 15.2 (g) of the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy;
- (b) the financing for this project **BE APPROVED** as set out in the Sources of Financing Report attached hereto as Appendix A;
- (c) the Civic Administration **BE AUTHORIZED** to undertake all the administrative acts that are necessary in connection with this project;
- (d) the approvals given herein **BE CONDITIONAL** upon the Corporation entering into a formal contract with the consultant for the work; and,
- (e) the Mayor and City Clerk **BE AUTHORIZED** to execute any contract or other documents, if required, to give effect to these recommendations.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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- Civic Works Committee – August 25, 2014 – Southdale Road and Boler Road Intersection Improvements Environmental Assessment Appointment of Consulting Engineer

2015 – 19 STRATEGIC PLAN

The following report supports the Strategic Plan through the strategic focus area of *Building a Sustainable City*. The proposed Southdale Road West corridor improvements project will support planned growth in the area and provide increased capacity and safety for all users.

BACKGROUND

Purpose

This report seeks the approval of the Municipal Council to retain an engineering consultant to undertake the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Southdale Road West corridor from Boler Road to Wickerson Road. The purpose of this EA is to satisfy the requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act by providing a comprehensive, environmentally sound planning process with public participation, and to facilitate dialogue between parties with a number of different interests.

Context

The subject road section is located in the in the south-west part of the City of London. The surrounding land use is a mix of residential, agricultural, recreational, open space and some areas are subject to an environmental review. This section of Southdale Road West accommodates approximately 14,000 vehicles per day. The EA will identify the needs and balance the requirements of the full range of potential users within a community including users of all ages and abilities, pedestrians, cyclists, transit vehicles and motorists.

Due to the rising traffic volumes and developments in the area, the City has identified a need for improvements along the Southdale Road West corridor noted. The EA is required to proceed with the implementation strategy.

DISCUSSION

Project Description

The study area for the review is bounded by Boler Road to the east and Wickerson Road to the west. Approximately 300 m of Wickerson Road, immediately north of Southdale Road West will also be reviewed as part of this EA. The intent of this study is to explore various geometric designs and develop a functional plan for the preferred Southdale Road West corridor design.

The existing road segments has a two lane cross-section for the full length of the project. The profile of Southdale Road West includes several grades that exceed design standards. The Official Plan includes a provision for a fourth leg at the intersection of Southdale Road West and Boler Road, extending to the south-east and connecting into Colonel Talbot Road north of Pack Road. A map of the study area is displayed in Figure 1.



Figure 1: Study Limits

The study will provide justification for the preferred design anticipating that the solution will include significant geometric improvements to the vertical alignment and existing road cross section. The preferred design will need to reflect both the existing and planned land use, urban form and transportation contexts. The corridor will need to serve the surrounding community in their day to day activities and in a variety of modes.

In 2014 Dillon Consulting Limited (Dillon) was retained by the City of London to complete a Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) to develop and evaluate alternatives for a first phase of improvements to this area of Southdale Road West; improving the Southdale and Boler Road intersection. All options were considered for this Intersection Improvement Study, from traffic signalization to a roundabout. The Study was completed earlier this year and established that traffic signals will provide the best operational level of service and recommended the installation of traffic signals with no additional roadworks. The traffic signals will be designed and constructed to remain in place when the future Southdale Road West works west of Boler Road is completed. As a result, the intersection improvements study that was initiated as a Schedule 'B' project under the Municipal Class EA was reclassified to a Schedule 'A', noting that Schedule 'A' projects may be implemented without following the Class EA planning process and do not require any further public consultation. However, it was also understood that the City must initiate a new Class EA Study to develop the long-term solution for Southdale Road West, from Boler Road to Wickerson Road.

The City's 2014 Development Charges Background Study also identifies the need to establish a two-lane rural arterial road cross section for Southdale Road West, from Boler Road to Wickerson Road. It was noted from the initial Southdale/Boler Road Intersection Improvement Study that a long-term solution for the Southdale Road West corridor will include geometric improvements resulting in significant vertical adjustments to the existing road cross section causing greater impacts on the natural and social environment than previously thought. As a result, a Schedule 'C' Class EA is required to construct these improvements because there is the potential for impacts to property and the natural environment. To minimize costs and ensure the best overall solution is developed for Southdale Road West, it was also recommended to incorporate the roadway improvements from the Intersection Class EA Study into this proposed Class EA Study for the upgrading of Southdale Road West from Boler Road to Wickerson Road.

The primary deliverables from the proposed EA assignment include:

- recommend the appropriate geometric design concept and future improvements for intersections to mitigate future deficiencies, accommodate increased traffic demand, and improve safety;
- scrutinize the vertical profile of the road to provide a solution that improves safety while minimizing property and natural environment impacts;
- determination of the appropriate right-of-way and property requirements;
- coordinate with planned commercial development;
- coordination of underground service needs;
- assess and document the ecological and natural features within the corridor and identify management needs
- document in a clear and transparent manner the process undertaken and provide formal documentation and presentations.

Consultant Selection

Dillon Consulting Limited (Dillon) recently completed the EA for the first phase of works along this section of Southdale Road West. The consultant acquisition process for the first phase used a two-stage process beginning with an open advertised request for qualifications. Three consulting firms were short-listed and asked to submit detailed proposals and work plans. Dillon was selected to undertake the Intersection Improvement EA after a competitive consultant procurement process in accordance with the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy Section 15.2 (e).

Dillon's performance during the Intersection Improvement EA was positive and detailed knowledge of the Southdale Road West corridor was obtained. Appointment of Dillon as the consulting engineer for the Southdale Road West, from Boler Road to Wickerson Road Class EA creates efficiencies providing financial advantage to the City by eliminating duplication that would be required if another firm were introduced. Considering Dillon's past performance, a Class EA proposal was requested and scope and fees were negotiated. Dillon's experience on similar design projects combined with a project proposal that demonstrated a thorough understanding of the goals and objectives illustrated the suitability for the undertaking. The firm is familiar with City staff and procedures through other projects with the City.

Civic Administration is recommending that Dillon be authorized to carry out the Southdale Road West, from Boler Road to Wickerson Road Class EA in accordance with Section 15.2 (g) of the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy. The continued use of Dillon on this project is of financial advantage to the City due to the fact the firm has completed the Intersection Improvement Class EA project and has specific knowledge which duplication would be required if another firm were to be selected.

CONCLUSION

The need for this Environmental Assessment has been identified as a result of the rising traffic volumes and developments in the area. The study recommendations will support planned growth in the area and provide increased capacity and safety for east-west users.

It is recommended Dillon Consulting Limited be appointed the consulting engineers for the Southdale Road West Class Environmental Assessment, from Boler Road to Wickerson Road, in the amount of \$228,855 (excluding HST).

Acknowledgements

This report was prepared with the assistance of Ted Koza, P.Eng., Transportation Design Engineer and Max Kireev, C.E.T., Technologist II of the Transportation Planning & Design Division.

<p>SUBMITTED BY:</p>	<p>REVIEWED & CONCURRED BY:</p>
<p>DOUG MACRAE, P.ENG. DIVISION MANAGER - TRANSPORTATION PLANNING & DESIGN</p>	<p>EDWARD SOLDO, P.ENG. DIRECTOR - ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION</p>
<p>RECOMMENDED BY:</p> <p>JOHN BRAAM, P.ENG. MANAGING DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES AND CITY ENGINEER</p>	

Attach: Appendix A – Sources of Financing

- c. Brian Huston, Dillon Consulting Limited (130 Dufferin Avenue, Suite 1400, London, ON N6A 5R2)
Pat Shack