

<b>TO:</b>	<b>CHAIR AND MEMBERS CIVIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING ON MAY 9, 2017</b>
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>KELLY SCHERR, P.ENG., MBA, FEC MANAGING DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL &amp; ENGINEERING SERVICES AND CITY ENGINEER</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>CLARKE ROAD WIDENING ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSEMENT VMP NORTH EXTENSION TO FANSHAWE PARK ROAD EAST APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTING ENGINEER</b>

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
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That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Environmental & Engineering Services and City Engineer, the following actions **BE TAKEN** with respect to the Clarke Road Widening Environmental Assessment:

- (a) Stantec Consulting Ltd. **BE APPOINTED** Consulting Engineers for the project in the amount of \$212,653 (excluding HST), in accordance with Section 15.2(e) of the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy;
- (b) the financing for this project **BE APPROVED** in accordance with 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.

<b>PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER</b>
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- Civic Works Committee – June 19, 2012 – London 2030 Transportation Master Plan

<b>2015-19 STRATEGIC PLAN</b>
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The following report supports the Strategic Plan through the strategic focus area of *Building a Sustainable City*. The proposed Clarke Road Widening project is part of a strategic program of road improvements to provide improved mobility and safety for all road 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 Clarke Road corridor from the future Veterans Memorial Parkway (VMP) extension to Fanshawe Park Road East. 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. The process will facilitate dialogue between parties with a number of different interests.

### **Context**

The study area for this EA is the Clarke Road corridor extending from the future Veterans Memorial Parkway (VMP) extension to Fanshawe Park Road East. The surrounding land use is a mix of residential, agricultural, park, and resource extraction land use designations. Clarke Road accommodates between 12,500 and 15,000 vehicles per day within the corridor.

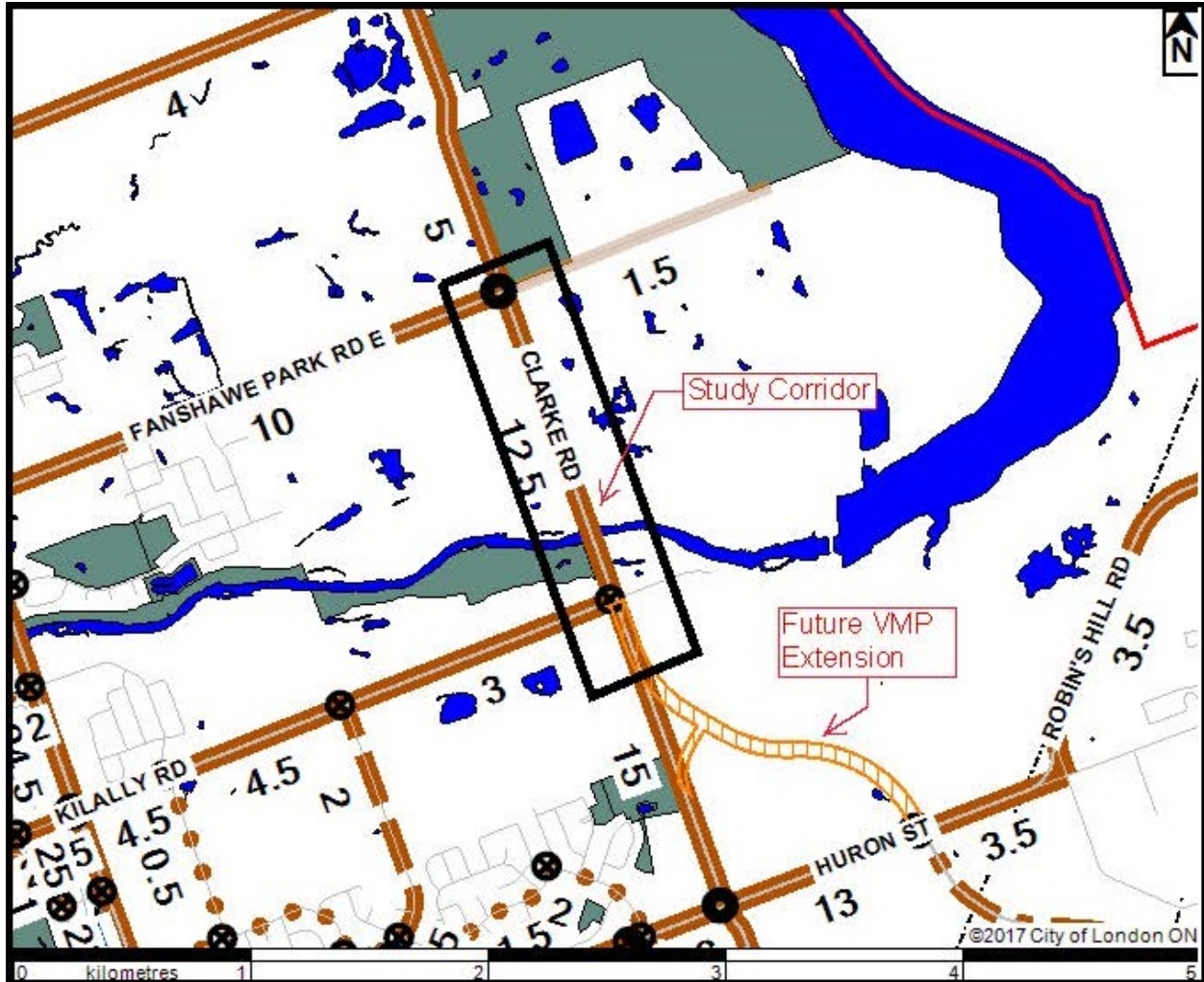
The London Plan identifies three distinct place types surrounding Clarke Road between the future VMP extension and Fanshawe Park Road East. The place types are: Rural Neighbourhood, Farmland, and Green Space. Each of the place types have associated policies on the vision, role within the City Structure, use, intensity and form in order to inform the vision for future development along the corridor. The Clarke Road corridor, within this project scope, is classified as Expressway.

The EA must integrate technical considerations, public and stakeholder input, transportation engineering, structural engineering, land use planning, and urban design to develop a balanced and implementable solution. The City has identified a need for improvements along Clarke Road due to the rising traffic volumes. The EA is required to proceed with the implementation strategy.

## DISCUSSION

### **Project Description**

The Clarke Road widening project was identified as a priority in the 2030 Transportation Master Plan (TMP) and the 2014 Development Charges Background Study. Recommendation was made to widen Clarke Road from VMP North Extension to Fanshawe Park Road East from 2 lanes to 4 lanes with consideration and protection for further future widening. A map of the study area is displayed in the following illustration:



### Environmental Assessment Study Area

The intent of this EA is to explore various geometric design alternatives and develop a functional plan for the preferred design. These alternatives will be evaluated using a range of criteria including impacts on the natural, social, cultural, and economic environments. The study corridor design should accommodate high volumes of vehicular traffic, be cycling supportive and provide safe access to the adjacent land uses.

The proposed EA will:

- Develop and evaluate design alternatives considering natural, social, cultural and economic environment considerations;
- Recommend the future improvements for the corridor and intersections to mitigate future deficiencies, accommodate increased traffic demand, and improve safety;
- Develop a functional and visually attractive design concept;
- Engage the public and stakeholders to allow public input and active involvement throughout the study process;
- Determine the appropriate right-of-way and property requirements;
- Coordinate underground service needs;
- Coordinate with ongoing EAs, projects, studies;
- Assess and document the ecological and natural features within the corridor and identify management needs; and,

- Document in a clear and transparent manner the process undertaken and provide formal documentation and presentations.

Issues of special interest in the project area include:

#### J.W. Carson Bridge

The J.W. Carson Bridge crossing of the Thames River is a four span continuous beam and slab bridge constructed in 1967. The J.W. Carson Bridge provides a passage for Clarke Road over the North Branch of the Thames River and is located just north of Kilally Road. The developed alternatives will consider the required increased capacity for both motorized and active transportation.

#### Veterans Memorial Parkway North Extension

The VMP North Extension is currently undergoing detailed design from Huron Street to Clarke Road. Construction is anticipated for 2019.

#### Natural Environment

The Thames River is part of the City's Natural Heritage System and designated as Significant Valley Lands in the London Plan. This component requires a comprehensive review, field investigations and agency consultations to confirm current and accurate information pertaining to known features, including rare species and species at risk.

#### Cultural Heritage

Assessment for archaeological potential will identify areas where advanced assessment is required during detailed design. The areas of potential and recognized cultural heritage value or interest within and adjacent to the study area will be inventoried and evaluated. The study will provide recommendations to ensure the conservation of significant cultural heritage resources.

#### Utility Infrastructure

The corridor contains significant public and private utility infrastructure such as a 1200 mm diameter watermain, Hydro One infrastructure, a natural gas pipeline and other utilities that will require detailed consideration in the planning process.

### **Consultant Selection**

The consultant selection process has been undertaken in accordance with the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy. The procurement followed the two (2) stage process with the first stage being an open, publicly advertised expression of interest/pre-qualification stage (REOI/RFQUAL). Subsequently a consultant shortlist comprising Stantec Consulting Ltd., AECOM Canada Ltd., and Parsons Inc. were asked to submit detailed proposals and work plans. All firms responded with written proposals including a summary of the project tasks, schedule, and costs. An evaluation committee reviewed the submissions for the project.

Based on the evaluation criteria and selection process identified in the request for proposal, the evaluation committee determined the proposal from Stantec Consulting Ltd. provides the best overall value to the City.

Stantec has an experienced project team that exhibited a clear understanding of the project scope and requirements. Their experience on similar projects of this nature, combined with a project proposal that confirmed a thorough understanding of the goals and objectives, illustrated their expertise for this undertaking. The consultant project team is familiar with the challenges presented in this project having been involved in several past projects in the area and across London, in particular, the VMP North Extension.

In accordance with Section 15.2 (e) of the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy, the civic administration is recommending Stantec Consulting Ltd. be appointed as the consulting engineer for the EA. The submission from Stantec Consulting Ltd. includes a fee submission that indicates that the EA can be completed within the project funds available.

<b>CONCLUSION</b>
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The Clarke Road EA will provide justification for the preferred design improvements to the existing road cross section. The preferred design will need to reflect both the existing and planned land use, urban form, and transportation contexts. The need for this environmental assessment has been identified as a result of the rising traffic volumes in the area.

Based on the technical evaluation of the proposals, it is recommended that Stantec Consulting Ltd. be awarded the consulting assignment for the Clarke Road Widening Environmental Assessment. The consultant assignment is valued at an upset amount of \$212,653 excluding HST.

**Acknowledgements**

This report was prepared with assistance from Ardian Spahiu, P.Eng. and Michelle Morris, E.I.T. of the Transportation Planning & Design Division.

<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	<b>REVIEWED AND CONCURRED BY:</b>
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<b>RECOMMENDED BY:</b>	
<b>KELLY SCHERR, P.ENG., MBA, FEC MANAGING DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES &amp; CITY ENGINEER</b>	

Attach: Appendix A – Sources of Financing  
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