

Report of the TAC Sub-Committee

Subject: Clarke Road Widening EA (Work Plan Item TAC EA 18.3)

At our last TAC meeting, which was held on July 24th, 2018 there appeared to be interest in a more in-depth review of the Clarke Road Widening Environmental Assessment. A motion was passed to refer this EA to the TAC Review Sub Committee, led by myself and Tariq Khan, with a direction to report back at our next TAC meeting on September 25th, 2018

Tariq Khan and I met by teleconference Thursday August 30th and determined that we would send out an email calling for agenda topics and invite TAC Voting Members to a formal meeting the week of September 10th, 2018. However, due to election preparations, no committee rooms were available at City Hall.

Tariq and I had a second teleconference on Tuesday September 4th, 2018. We reviewed the responses to our call for agenda items, which by that point had resulted in only one response by Jayne Scarterfield (re. Osprey/Eagle nesting in the Killaly/Clarke Rd area). We crafted a set of our own concerns and agreed that we would reach out to Project Manager, Isaac Bartlett in parallel to our attempts to arrange a formal Sub Committee teleconference the week of September 10th, 2018. An electronic survey designed for this purpose resulted in only one positive response (4 in total) so we determined that there was insufficient interest to warrant any further attempts to arrange a formal meeting.

On Wednesday September 5th, 2018, a teleconference was held between myself and Isaac Barlett. Following review of the minutes of this telecon (attached below), it is the recommendation of this Sub-Committee that no further action be taken at this time and that this Work Plan Item be marked as closed.

Dan Foster
Monday, September 17th, 2018.

Teleconference Notes:

Q. Is the project Team still on schedule to report to Council this fall?

A. No, there are still some consultations scheduled (BAC Sept 19th) so report to Council will be pushed back to early 2019.

Q. What is the time-line for construction and are there any dependencies?

A. Clarke Rd Widening is scheduled for 2021. Veterans Memorial Parkway Extension is currently scheduled for 2020 and there are plans for a new signalled intersection with Clarke Rd. at the entrance to Fanshawe Conservation Area. Clarke Rd will take a turn East towards this

intersection to link it with the VMP. The recent approval of the Adelaide St Underpass by Council may have an adverse effect on the timing of this project.

Q. Why are we adding a multi-use path on the west side of a road designated as an Expressway? How will you ensure safety for the users?

A. The short-term plan is to provide a link for the various proposed cycling paths to the entrance to Fanshawe Conservation Area. The present safety risk mitigation plan is to design a raised pathway with a ditch separation to prevent vehicle crossovers. Pedestrians/Cyclists will have access to Fanshawe Conservation Area via the signalled intersection at the entrance to the Fanshawe Conservation Area. The entire stretch will need to be re-designed when expansion of the VPM to a 6 lane divided Expressway occurs.

Q. Were roundabouts considered for any of the 3 intersections?

A. Yes. The traffic signal works better for Fanshawe Park Rd due to volume imbalance and land acquisition issues. They also looked at the landmark opportunity at the Clarke Rd /VPM intersection due to it being the entrance to the Fanshawe Conservation Area.

Q. What are the plans for the intersection at Killaly Road?

A. There are no plans for this intersection until they meet the warrant program criteria.

Q. One of our TAC members noted there are Osprey and/or Eagle nests at Killaly and Clark e.g. May 20, 2018, south west corner and this would indicate disruption for nesting and I wonder if construction can be planned around repro cycles (e.g. don't cut the tree down with eggs in the nest)?

A. The project team made a presentation recently to EPAC (Environmental Protection Advisory Committee) at which time this issue was raised. The response to EPAC was that all such nests identified will be respected and any removal/relocation activity will be planned outside the nesting windows. EPAC also confirmed that they have established their own sub-committee to deal with this EA.