

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS CIVIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2020
FROM:	KELLY SCHERR, P. ENG, MBA, FEC MANAGING DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES AND CITY ENGINEER
SUBJECT:	HAMILTON ROAD & GORE ROAD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STUDY 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 Consulting Engineer for the Hamilton Road and Gore Road Intersection Improvements Environmental Assessment Study:

- (a) MTE Consultants Inc. **BE APPOINTED** as a Consulting Engineer to complete the Schedule 'B' Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for the Hamilton Road and Gore Road Intersection Improvements at an upset amount of \$132,468.80 (excluding HST) in accordance with RFP20-42 and Section 15.2 (d) of the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy;
- (b) the financing for this assignment **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 assignment;
- (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 including agreements with utilities, if required, to give effect to these recommendations.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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- Built and Natural Environment Committee – October 31, 2011- Hamilton Road and Gore Road Intersection
- Civic Works Committee – June 19, 2012 – London 2030 Transportation Master Plan
- Civic Works Committee – September 7, 2016 – London ON Bikes Cycling Master
- Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee – May 6, 2019 – Approval of 2019 Development Charges By-Law and DC Background Study

COUNCIL'S 2019-2023 STRATEGIC PLAN

The following report supports the Strategic Plan through the strategic focus area of Building a Sustainable City by building new transportation infrastructure to meet the long term needs of our community.

BACKGROUND

Purpose

This report recommends the appointment of a consulting engineer to complete the environmental assessment (EA) for the Hamilton Road and Gore Road intersection improvements. The purpose of this EA is to satisfy the requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act by providing comprehensive, environmentally sound planning process with public participation. The process will also facilitate dialogue between parties with number of different interests.

Context

This EA is required to implement transportation infrastructure improvements for the Hamilton Road and Gore Road intersection. The need and justification for the intersection improvement was identified as part of the 2030 Smart Moves Transportation Master Plan (TMP) and carried forward into the recent update of the City of London's Development Charges Background Study. It is recommended to implement the improvements for the Hamilton Road and Gore Road intersection in 2024. The EA is being initiated now to accommodate project timelines including property acquisition and utility relocations.

The EA will identify the needs and balance the requirements of the full range of potential users within the community including users of all ages and abilities, pedestrians, cyclists, transit vehicles and motorists. The EA will also consider the impacts associated with climate change in the context of the proposed improvements.

DISCUSSION

Project Description

The study area for this EA will include the Hamilton Road and Gore Road intersection and surrounding are as shown on the Figure 1 below. The Hamilton Road and Gore Road intersection is a three-legged stop controlled intersection located on the east side of the city. The intersection is at an extreme skew. Hamilton Road and Gore Road are classified as Civic Boulevards. Gore Road carries approximately 14,000 vehicles per day and Hamilton Road carries approximately 14,000 and 7,000 vehicles per day west and east of the intersection respectively. Over the past five years there have been 20 vehicle collisions reported at this intersection. None of them involved pedestrians or cyclists.

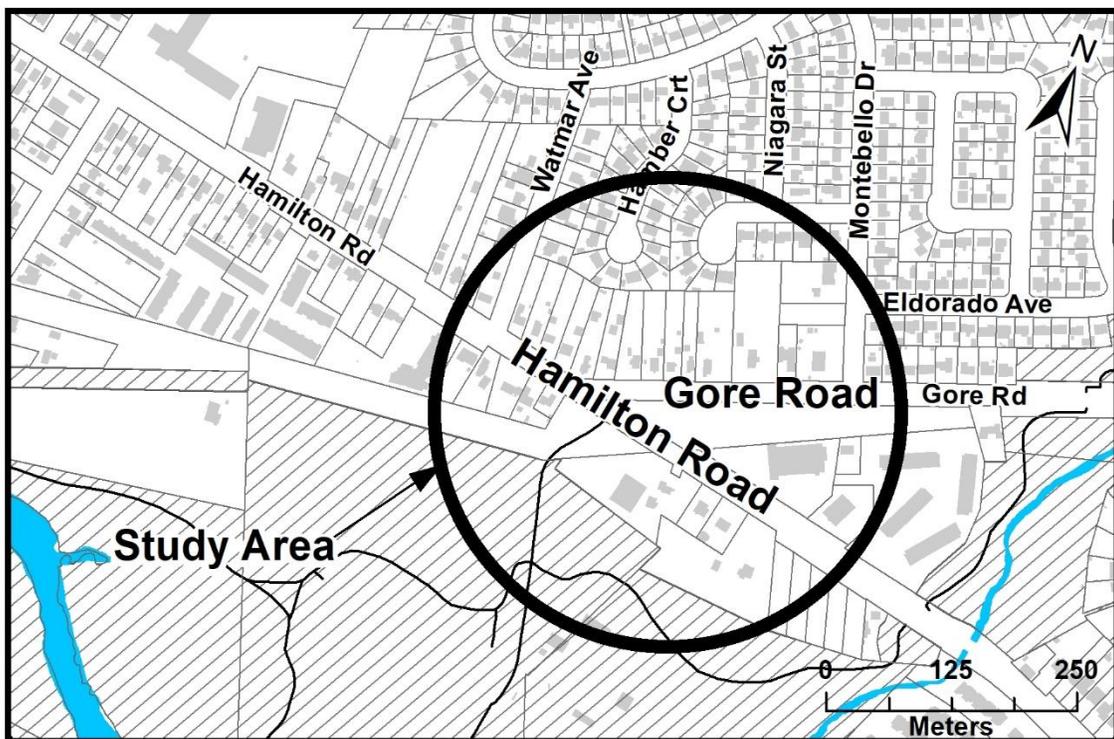


Figure 1. Environmental Assessment Study Area

The initial technical review of the intersection completed in 2011, identified the need to reconfigure the intersection based on the history of collisions and public concern, geometric, operational and delay deficiencies. The previous technical review developed alternatives including road realignments and conversion to a roundabout to improve sightlines. The project was subsequently identified in the Transportation Master Plan. This EA will explore various intersection design alternatives and develop a functional plan for the preferred design. The alternatives will be evaluated using a range of criteria including impacts on the natural, social, cultural, and economic environments and will be informed by consultation.

The EA study will also:

- Recommend the improvements for the Hamilton Road and Gore Road intersection that will mitigate future deficiencies, accommodate increased traffic demand, improve safety, and provide the best value for the City;
- 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 other 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.

Consultant Procurement

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 of three engineering consulting firms was developed. The consultants were asked to submit detailed proposals and work plans. Proposals were received from all three consultants on July 31, 2020. The selection committee evaluated the proposals against an established evaluation criteria which included the experience and qualifications of the consultant team as well as their approach, methodology and understanding of project goals and objectives.

The evaluation committee determined that the submission from MTE Consultants Inc. engineering firm provides the best value for the City. MTE Consultants Inc. has experienced project team members with the required qualifications and expertise. Their proven experience on similar projects combined with a project proposal that demonstrated a thorough understanding of the goals and objectives determined their suitability for this assignment.

CONCLUSION

MTE Consultants Inc. has demonstrated an understanding of the requirements for this project. Based on the competitive consultant procurement process, it is recommended that MTE Consultants Inc. be appointed to undertake the environmental assessment study for the Hamilton and Gore Roads intersection improvements in the amount of \$132,468.80 (excluding HST).

There are no anticipated additional annual operating costs to the Environmental and Engineering Services Department associated with this assignment.

PREPARED BY:	REVIEWED & CONCURRED BY:
GARFIELD DALES, P. ENG. DIVISION MANAGER TRANSPORTATION PLANNING & DESIGN	DOUG MACRAE, P. ENG., MPA DIRECTOR ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION
RECOMMENDED BY:	
KELLY SCHERR, P. ENG., MBA, FEC MANAGING DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES AND CITY ENGINEER	

c: John Freeman, Manager, Purchasing and Supply
John Stevely, Procurement Officer, Purchasing and Supply
Gary McDonald, Budget Analyst
MTE Consultants Inc.