

Town of Whitby

Staff Report

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Report Title: Highway 7/12 Alternative Route EA – Addition of Columbus Road (Country Lane to Lake Ridge Road) EA to Scope of Work

Report to: Committee of the Whole

Date of meeting: June 12, 2023

Report Number: PDE 11-23

Department(s) Responsible:

Planning and Development Department
(Engineering Services)

Submitted by:

Roger Saunders, Commissioner,
Planning and Development

**Acknowledged by M. Gaskell, Chief
Administrative Officer**

For additional information, contact:

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1. Recommendation:

1. That Council approve a change order incorporating the Columbus Road (Country Lane to Lake Ridge Road) Environmental Assessment Study into the current Highway 7/12 Alternative Route EA contract with BT Engineering, in accordance with the estimate of scope and cost outlined in Report PDE 11-23; and,
2. That a new 2023 capital project be created for the Columbus Road (Country Lane to Lake Ridge Road) Environmental Assessment Study, in the amount of \$255,000 to be funded from the reserves outlined in Table 1 of Report PDE 11-23.

2. Highlights:

- The Highway 7/12 Alternative Route EA has completed the technical analysis for the emerging issues identified in late 2021.
- The Project Team has reconfirmed the status of Alternative B-R (Lake Ridge Road and CPR rail corridor) as the Technically Preferred Alternative (TPA).

In consideration of the additional analysis, the TPA now includes a direct connection between Lake Ridge Road and Highway 412.

- This Highway 412 connection is significantly impacted by the intersections of 7th Concession (in Pickering) and Columbus Road (in Whitby) with Lake Ridge Road.
- The future alignment and design of the west end of Columbus Road and its intersection with Lake Ridge Road is the subject of a future Environmental Assessment (Country Lane to Lake Ridge). The potential realignment of Columbus Road to align with 7th Concession in Pickering is a consideration that would have bearing on the Hwy 7/12 Alternative Route design.
- Advancing the Columbus Road EA as part of the Hwy 7/12 EA is beneficial to the outcomes of both studies, in terms of technical efficiency, cost, and timing.
- Community Open House (COH) 4 for the Highway 7/12 EA is being planned for the Fall of 2023. The purpose of COH 4 will be to present the Technically Preferred Alternative and its design concepts, including the Highway 412 Connection.
- Initiating the Columbus Road EA immediately would allow the opportunity to advance the preferred alignment and design of Columbus Road at Lake Ridge Road such that COH 1 and COH 2 required for the Columbus Road EA would align with COH 4 and COH 5 for the Hwy 7/12 EA.
- Benefits to the Highway 7/12 EA are that a more definitive preliminary design for Highway 7/12 can be developed, which in turns allows the Ministry and Town to proceed with the protection of lands.
- Benefits to the Columbus Road EA are that the preliminary design can advance on an accelerated time schedule to align more closely with the current Detailed Design project, and efficiencies are realized in terms of scope of work, cost, and scope of work that can be realized.
- The Columbus Road EA and Design is currently in the Town's 10-Year Capital Forecast for 2025.

3. Background:

During 2022, the Highway 7/12 Project Team was charged with completing technical analysis for emerging issues related to land use and transportation network changes in the study area.

One of the technical issues was the removal of tolls from Highway 412 and the potential impact this would have on the assessment of the short list of alternatives as evaluated.

The additional analysis has reconfirmed the TPA as Alt B-R, using Lake Ridge Road as the north-south leg of the route and paralleling the CPR rail corridor in

North Whitby for the east-west leg. New to the TPA is the potential direct connection to Highway 412.

As the Hwy 7/12 EA team is trying to confirm the Preliminary Design for Lake Ridge Road improvements and Highway 412 connection as part of the TPA, it has been determined that there is value in finalizing the future condition/alignment of Columbus Road at Lake Ridge Road.

Attachment No. 1 provides an overview of the current alternative route concept in the area of the Highway 412 connection and transition.

The future alignment and design for Columbus Road and its intersection with Lake Ridge Road is the subject of a future Environmental Assessment. Current budget for this Columbus Road (Country Lane to Lake Ridge Road) EA is allocated to 2025.

Advancing the Columbus Road EA as part of the Hwy 7/12 EA is beneficial to the outcomes of both studies, in terms of technical efficiency, cost, and timing.

The current Town Official Plan shows the realignment and connection of Columbus Road to Concession Road 7 (Refer to Attachment No. 2). The Regional Official Plan consolidation also shows this connection (Refer to Attachment No. 3).

Through participation in the Hwy 7/12 EA Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), The City of Pickering has expressed support for the realignment of Columbus Road and connection to Concession Road 7.

The Project Team is planning to host the next Community Open House (COH 4) in late September / October 2023. The timeline for COH 4 has been extended to the Fall due to meeting and scheduling requirements with MTO.

The Fall timeline for the Highway 7/12 EA allows the Project Team the opportunity to undertake additional work related to the TPA, including specific design issues related to the connection of the TPA to Highway 412. This connection is significantly impacted by the intersections of 7th Concession (in Pickering) and Columbus Road (in Whitby) with Lake Ridge Road.

Initiating the Columbus Road EA immediately would allow the opportunity to advance the preferred alignment and design of Columbus Road at Lake Ridge Road such that COH 1 and COH 2 required for the Columbus Road EA would align with COH 4 and COH 5 for the Hwy 7/12 EA.

4. Discussion:

The improvement and potential realignment of the section of Columbus Road from Country Lane to Lake Ridge Road (2km section) is the subject of a future EA.

Adding the Columbus EA to the scope of the 7/12 EA has several benefits, including:

- Accelerates the EA and design of the subject section of Columbus Road and provides an opportunity to move to detailed design for Columbus Road more

- quickly, to coincide with current Columbus Road Detail Design work to the east. This would significantly advance the ability to have a consistent 4-lane Columbus Road between Lake Ridge Road and to the East Town limit;
- Provides clarity with respect to the design of the Technically Preferred Alternative for Hwy 7/12 EA, and further allows for a more comprehensive and earlier understanding of the property acquisition requirements in the area of the Highway 412 extension and transition area; and,
 - Provides significant efficiency for the Columbus EA, as the COH 4 and COH 5 for Highway 7/12 can be used to meet the public consultation requirements of the EA (time and money savings), and the Town will not be required to undertake a lengthy procurement process for the selection of an Engineering Consultant.

5. Financial Considerations:

A forecast of \$863,250 (funded 85% from Development Charges and 15% from the (tax-based) Growth Capital Reserve Fund) to undertake this EA and Design is currently allocated in the year 2025 of the 10-year Capital Forecast under capital project 40256047 Columbus Road - EA and Detailed Design Studies.

Following a 2019 Request for Proposal (RFP-83-2019), BT Engineering Inc. was awarded the work to complete the Hwy 7/12 EA on behalf of the Town. A cost estimate of \$249,647 excluding HST (or \$254,040.79 including non-recoverable HST) has been identified to complete the EA and Preliminary Design scope of work (Refer to Attachment No. 4). This cost reflects the efficiencies to be realized by executing the Columbus Road EA in tandem with the next phase of the Highway 7/12 EA.

Staff recommend issuing BT Engineering a change order, in the amount of \$254,040.79 (inclusive of non-recoverable HST) for the Columbus EA work. In accordance with the Town's Procurement Policy F080, change orders made after execution of a contract that are not within the approved Budget require approval of Council.

As detailed in Table 1, based on the original sources of funding for capital project 40256047 Columbus Road - EA and Detailed Design Studies, it is recommended that the new 2023 budget requirement of \$250,000 be funded from Development Charges Reserve (85%) and the Growth Capital Reserve Fund (15%):

Table 1

Project #	Project Name	Reserve (Draw)/Return of Funds		
		Growth Capital Reserve Fund	DC – Roads & Related - Townwide	Net (Draw)/Return of Reserve Funds
TBD	EA Study - Columbus Road (Country Lane to Lake Ridge Road)	(\$38,250)	(\$216,750)	(\$255,000)

This would leave a balance in the Capital Forecast of \$608,250 (= \$863,250 - \$255,000) for the Detailed Design, which could reasonably proceed on an accelerated timeline (2024/2025).

6. Communication and Public Engagement:

In 2023 there will be additional consultation with stakeholders, agencies, and First Nations for the Hwy 7/12 EA, which will include newsletter(s) and meetings. The opportunity for live public meetings will also be considered.

Advancing the Columbus Road EA will allow for the statutory consultation for the project to be undertaken in concert with the Hwy 7/12 events and meetings.

7. Input from Departments/Sources:

Transportation Services staff will continue to collaborate with Planning, Financial Services, and Communications and Creative Services to address project needs and issues as they arise.

8. Strategic Priorities:

Report PDE 11-23 is consistent with the findings and recommendations of the approved Brooklin Secondary Plan.

The advancement of the Environmental Assessment for Columbus Road (Country Lane to Lake Ridge Road) to 2023 in a timely manner will support and facilitate the completion of the Highway 7/12 Alternative Route EA, provide an opportunity to coordinate the alignment and design of the subject section of Columbus Road with the current Detailed Design work underway, and support approved developments in north Brooklin. In so doing, the advancement of the Columbus Road EA aligns with the objectives of the Corporate Strategic Plan to provide a consistent, optimized, and positive customer service experience.

9. Attachments:

Attachment No. 1 - Possible Highway 412 Connection to Lake Ridge Road

Attachment No. 2 - Whitby Official Plan - Schedule D - June 2021 Office Consolidation

Attachment No. 3 - Region of Durham Official Plan - Schedule C - Consolidation May 26, 2020

Attachment No. 4 - Highway 7/12 and Columbus Road Scope Provided by BTE