



Hamilton

INFORMATION REPORT

**AFFECTS
WARDS 6, 9
AND 11**

To:	Chair and Members Economic Development and Planning Committee		
From:	Tim McCabe General Manager Planning and Economic Development Department	Telephone: Facsimile: Email:	905 546-4339 905 546-4364 tjmccabe@hamilton.ca
	Scott Stewart, C.E.T. General Manager Public Works Department	Telephone: Facsimile: E-mail:	905 546-2313 905 546-4481 sstewart@hamilton.ca
Date:	November 14, 2007		
Re:	Trinity Neighbourhood Secondary Plan and Trinity Neighbourhood Collector Road Class Environmental Assessment (PED07236(a)/ PW07112(a)) (Wards 6, 9 and 11)		

Council Direction:

That Planning and Public Works staff report back to the Economic Development and Planning Committee, at or before the last Committee meeting of 2007, regarding the Trinity Neighbourhood Secondary Plan and Trinity Neighbourhood Collector Road Class Environmental Assessment.

Information:

Prior to September 4, 2007, studies underway in the Trinity Neighbourhood included a review of the approved secondary plan, necessitated by the discovery of Provincially-significant natural area features. This area is known as the Eramosa Karst Conservation Area, located on lands previously designated for residential use, which will now be protected as open space. Various transportation studies were also underway in the area, including the Trinity Neighbourhood Collector Road Environmental Assessment (EA), several road improvements to serve the Regional Official Plan Amendment (ROPA) 9 area south of Rymal Road, and the Trinity Church Collector Road to connect with the Red Hill Valley Parkway. Residents of the area, in conjunction with the Ward Councillor, have requested the preservation of additional lands east of the karst as open space. Provincial funding for this open space is being pursued, as municipal funds are not available.

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Expansion of the open space area would include the lands on which the Trinity Neighbourhood Collector Road is proposed, and would preclude the construction of this road. There would be implications on other nearby road projects, including the proposed closure of Second Road West. In order to allow time for the open space funding to be pursued, the extent of open space to be determined, and the implications on the road system to be identified, Report PED07236/PW07112 – Trinity Neighbourhood Secondary Plan and Trinity Neighbourhood Collector Road Class Environmental Assessment, was brought forward to put a portion of the secondary plan study area on hold, and to suspend the Class EA process for the Trinity Collector Road.

On September 4, 2007, Report PED07236/PW07112 – Trinity Neighbourhood Secondary Plan and Trinity Neighbourhood Collector Road Class Environmental Assessment, was presented to the Economic Development and Planning Committee. The recommendations of the report were:

- (a) That the General Manager, Planning and Economic Development, be authorized and directed to put on hold the Secondary Planning process for those lands east of the Eramosa Karst area in the Trinity Neighbourhood.
- (b) That the General Manager, Planning and Economic Development, be authorized and directed to undertake the Secondary Planning process for the lands west of the Eramosa Karst area and north of Rymal Road.
- (c) That the General Manager, Public Works Department, be authorized and directed to suspend the Class Environmental Assessment process for the Trinity Neighbourhood Collector Road.
- (d) That the General Manager, Public Works Department, be authorized and directed to include \$200,000 in the 2008 Capital Budget submission for a revised Transportation Master Plan for the ROPA 9 and Trinity Neighbourhood area.
- (e) That Planning and Economic Development Department staff and Public Works Department staff be directed to report back to the Economic Development and Planning Committee upon their review of the Ontario Realty Corporation's Technical Reports regarding development potential of the lands east of the Eramosa Karst, or at the final Economic Development and Planning Committee meeting of 2007, whichever comes first, with recommendations regarding whether or not the Secondary Planning work outlined in Recommendation (a) and the Class Environmental Assessment work outlined in Recommendation (c) can resume.
- (f) That a copy of Report PED07236/PW07112 be forwarded to Premier Dalton McGuinty, and that a formal request for transfer of the remaining karst lands in the Trinity Neighbourhood be sent by Council to the Premier's Office.

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The following amendment to the recommendations was added:

- (g) That the General Manager, Public Works Department, be authorized and directed to, notwithstanding the suspension of the Class Environmental Assessment process for the Trinity Neighbourhood Collector Road, proceed with road improvements outside the Trinity Neighbourhood Collector Road Study Area, including Rymal Road and Trinity Church Road and the extension thereto, in order to facilitate the development of ROPA 9 (Motion by Councillor Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Clark).

The amended recommendations were approved by Council on September 12, 2007.

Following Council's approval of Report PED07236/PW07112 – Trinity Neighbourhood Secondary Plan and Trinity Neighbourhood Collector Road Class Environmental Assessment, Public Works and Planning and Economic Development staff suspended their work on the Trinity Neighbourhood Collector Road EA and Trinity Neighbourhood Secondary Plan, in the area bounded by Highland Road West, Second Road, Rymal Road East and Upper Mount Albion Road, pending receipt and review of technical reports from the Ontario Realty Corporation (ORC) for their lands within the Trinity Neighbourhood. These technical reports will include a topographic survey, hydrogeology, geotechnical study, ecology, a traffic assessment, a noise study and a functional servicing assessment. A water flow/tracer study may also be included. These reports have not yet been received and, therefore, the Class EA and Secondary Planning processes have not resumed.

Recommendation (f) to Report PED07236/PW07112 – Trinity Neighbourhood Secondary Plan and Trinity Neighbourhood Collector Road Class Environmental Assessment

Recommendation (f) to Report PED07236/PW07112 – Trinity Neighbourhood Secondary Plan and Trinity Neighbourhood Collector Road Class Environmental Assessment, was that a copy of Report PED07236/PW07112 be forwarded to Premier Dalton McGuinty, and that a formal request for transfer of the remaining karst lands in the Trinity Neighbourhood be sent by Council to the Premier's Office. Mayor Eisenberger forwarded the letter and the staff report to Premier Dalton McGuinty on October 1, 2007. To date, a response from the Premier's Office has not been received by the Mayor's Office.

Hamilton Conservation Authority's Position

The Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) owns the Eramosa Karst lands. If the lands east of the Eramosa Karst are transferred from the Province, the potential exists that they may be transferred to the Hamilton Conservation Authority.

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At the September 6, 2007, HCA Board of Directors meeting, the Board passed the following resolution:

“BD12,921 MOVED BY McKay
 SECONDED BY Howlett

THAT the correspondence from Marcus Buck, Dr. Derek Ford and Dr. Stephen Worthington regarding the Eramosa Karst be received;

THAT the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority believes that additional areas of the Eramosa Karst should be preserved and protected based on its rarity and on the expert opinions provided by the above individuals, and further;

That the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority would be a willing recipient of this land.”

Current Status of the Trinity Secondary Plan Review

Planning staff has put the review of lands on the east side of the Eramosa Karst on hold, and are proceeding with the review of lands west of the Eramosa Karst, in accordance with Recommendation (b) of Report PED07236/PW07112 – Trinity Neighbourhood Secondary Plan and Trinity Neighbourhood Collector Road Class Environmental Assessment.

Current Status of the Trinity Neighbourhood Collector Road Class EA

All work on the Trinity Neighbourhood Collector Road Class EA was suspended on September 4, 2007. Public Works staff will not make recommendations to either the Public Works Committee or Economic Development and Planning Committee to re-start this process, or proceed with a new planning process, until either staff has received and reviewed the technical reports from ORC, or until staff is advised of the position of the Premier’s Office with respect to the transfer of lands to the Hamilton Conservation Authority.

Public Works staff will include \$200,000 in the 2008 Capital Budget submission for a revised Transportation Master Plan for the ROPA 9 and Trinity Neighbourhood area, as outlined in Recommendation (d) of Report PED07236/PW07112 – Trinity Neighbourhood Secondary Plan and Trinity Neighbourhood Collector Road Class Environmental Assessment. This revised Transportation Master Plan would be required only if staff is directed by Council, as a result of a staff report to either the Public Works Committee or Economic Development and Planning Committee. Two potential reasons for not implementing the Trinity Neighbourhood Collector are that it cannot be constructed because findings of the ORC reports preclude construction of a roadway in this area, or that it will not be implemented because of transfer of the lands from the Province to the Hamilton Conservation Authority.

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Completion of a new Transportation Master Plan under the Class Environmental Assessment Act for this area will need to be incorporated into the work plans for the Strategic Planning and Environmental Planning Sections (Public Works).

Implications for ROPA 9 Lands South of Rymal

In Report PED07236/PW07112 – Trinity Neighbourhood Secondary Plan and Trinity Neighbourhood Collector Road Class Environmental Assessment, staff committed to providing an update on the implications of suspending the Trinity Neighbourhood Collector Road Class EA on the ROPA 9 lands south of Rymal Road, east of Trinity Church Road, west of Regional Road 56, and north of the Hydro corridor.

A Secondary Plan has been prepared and approved for this area. The plans for this area will accommodate an ultimate population of about 9,700 persons. The land use plans for this area were developed with the assumption that several roadway system improvements would be undertaken to provide capacity for these residents, including the Trinity Neighbourhood Collector Road.

Various transportation system improvements are needed to allow full development of the ROPA 9 area. These include the Red Hill Valley Parkway, the widening of Rymal Road, extension of Trinity Church Road to the LINC, and the widening of Regional Road 56. Development of the ROPA 9 lands is subject to Transportation Phasing policies set out in the Official Plan Amendment for the Rymal Road Planning Area.

How traffic to and from the ROPA 9 area can be accommodated cannot be quantified until it is determined if the Trinity Neighbourhood Collector Road Class EA can be completed, or if a new Transportation Master Plan is required. However, as noted in the added Recommendation (g) to Report PED07236/PW07112, staff was directed to proceed with road improvements outside the Trinity Neighbourhood Collector Road Study Area, including Rymal Road and Trinity Church Road and the extension thereto, in order to facilitate the development of ROPA 9.

Next Steps

It is anticipated that ORC's technical reports will be received by City staff in the near future. Public Works and Planning staff will review these reports and will report back to the Economic Development and Planning Committee in April 2008, with recommendations regarding the future direction of the Class EA and Secondary Planning processes for the Trinity Neighbourhood.

Tim McCabe
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Planning and Economic Development Department

Scott Stewart, C.E.T.
General Manager
Public Works Department

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Attach. (1)

