



MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** December 12, 2018  
**TO:** Mayor, Deputy Mayor & Members of Council  
**FROM:** Jeremy Nyenhuis, Drainage Superintendent  
Jason Inwood, Strategic Leader - Operations  
**SUBJECT:** South Innisfil Creek Drain Improvements - Update

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Outlined below is a summary of the works completed to date on the South Innisfil Creek Drain and Branches Improvement since staff report DSR-074-18 was provided to Council in August 2018. Along with the staff report, Burnside submitted their Draft Engineer's Report including an update presentation to Council.

**Delegation at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference**

Former Mayor Gord Wauchope, and the then Deputy Mayor Lynn Dollin, Andrea Khanjin, M.P.P. for Barrie-Innisfil and members of staff met with Kinga Surma, M.P.P. for Etobicoke Centre, the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Transportation and MTO staff members at a delegation on August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at AMO to discuss the South Innisfil Creek Drain (SICD) and the Highway 400 crossing.

Town staff made a presentation to the Parliamentary Assistant and outlined the status of the SICD engineer's report. It was indicated again to MTO staff that the improvements will require the Highway 400 crossing to be replaced and lowered and that the Town desired to work collaboratively with the MTO on a final solution. Further discussions around the option of incorporating the design and replacement of the Highway 400 crossing with the current Highway 400/89 Interchange project, which is being completed directly south of the location of the Highway 400 drainage crossing, were had.

M.P.P. Kinga Surma indicated towards the end of the delegation that she would personally follow up with the Town regarding this issue in the near future.

**Subsequent Meeting with MTO Parliamentary Assistant, Kinga Surma, M.P.P.**

On November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Former Mayor Wauchope, and then Deputy Mayor Dollin and members of staff had a subsequent meeting to discuss the South Innisfil Creek Drain and the Highway 400 crossing further with Kinga Surma, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Transportation and Andrea Khanjin, M.P.P. for Barrie-Innisfil.

Discussions regarding the collaboration with the Highway 400 crossing and the Highway 400/89 Interchange project was discussed. Both sides had some positive takeaways from the meeting.

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018, a conference call was held with key MTO staff, Town staff and both M.P.P.s to discuss the current state of the Highway 400 crossings. From this conference call, a technical meeting was determined to be the best next step.

### **Technical Meeting with MTO Staff and Their Consultants**

On November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018, key members of the Burnside Drainage team and Town staff had a Technical Meeting with MTO staff to discuss the technical side of both projects. The Town continues to work with the MTO on a solution for the Highway 400 crossing on the South Innisfil Creek Drain. The MTO has requested some additional design information as per an interim solution for the Highway crossing from Burnside.

### **Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Approval**

The Burnside Drainage and Aquatics team submitted a formal “Request for Review” including an Aquatic Habitat Assessment to the DFO for the proposed improvements on July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018. As part of the approval process, on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, two Fisheries Protection Biologists were on site to walk sections of the drain to review the site and discuss the proposed work under the report.

On November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the Burnside Drainage and Aquatics team had a meeting with key staff at the DFO to discuss in more details the proposed improvement along the drain and the requirements for the application for the *Fisheries Act* Authorization.

Town staff and members of the Burnside team anticipated that a Fisheries Authorization would be required and the process is well underway with anticipated authorization in the coming weeks.

### **Final Engineer’s Report**

With the positive communication between the Town and both the DFO and MTO, Burnside anticipates that the Final Engineer’s Report for the South Innisfil Creek Drain – 2019 Improvement will be filed with the Town in January 2019.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me directly.