



## Media Release



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For Immediate Release

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### **The Regional Municipality of York receives approval of Southeast Collector Trunk Sewer Environmental Assessment**

*First Individual Environmental Assessment undertaken for wastewater sewer project in Ontario*

**NEWMARKET** – The Ontario Ministry of the Environment today released approval of The Regional Municipalities of York and Durham’s Individual Environmental Assessment (IEA) for the Southeast Collector Trunk Sewer project.

The IEA is a culmination of more than five years of research and study and \$16 million invested to ensure the integrity of this comprehensive process.

“We are very pleased that the Minister of the Environment has supported our efforts on this significant infrastructure project,” said York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch. “Accompanying the approval are 74 stringent conditions to which we must adhere. These conditions are in place to ensure environmental protection and to assure residents that there are minimal impacts as a result of the construction and operation of this critical infrastructure. We will continue to work closely with the Ministry to ensure our obligations are fulfilled.”

The new Southeast Collector Trunk Sewer (SEC) is a component of the existing York Durham Sewage System (YDSS). The entire YDSS is comprised of 242 kilometres of sewer pipe, forcemains and pumping stations. In addition to it being required to accommodate planned and approved growth, this \$546 million, 10-year capital project is also needed as critical back up support for maintenance to be performed on the existing sewer pipe, thereby ensuring long-term security of the system.

In its initial review of the IEA, the Ministry of the Environment noted that it was, “...*satisfied that the Region’s planning and decision-making process meets the requirements as set out in the Environmental Assessment Act and the approved Terms of Reference,*” and that “*the consultation undertaken meets the requirement as set out in the Environmental Assessment Act and the approved Terms of Reference.*”

Durham Region Chairman and CEO Roger Anderson said “The Ministry of the Environment has agreed that York and Durham Regions have fulfilled their obligations in terms of proper planning, addressing stakeholder concerns, protecting the environment and necessary consultation leading up to the filing of the IEA. The approval of the individual environmental assessment is one of many critical steps as we move toward construction.”

The approved sewer route begins at the existing Southeast Collector Trunk Sewer, north of Box Grove in the Town of Markham. It travels southeast to 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and continues east along 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Townline Road. The route then travels south along Townline Road to the Hydro Corridor, turning east along the Corridor to Liverpool Road. It proceeds south along Liverpool Road to Finch Avenue, turning east until it reconnects with the existing South East Collector Trunk Sewer at Finch Avenue and Valley Farm Road.

This route was selected as it offers:

- Least social impact on residential properties of all evaluated routes
- No anticipated effects to surface water features
- Least anticipated effects on groundwater wells
- No anticipated habitat effects

- No potential effects on habitat or aquatic aspects of the Bob Hunter Memorial Park (BHMP) / Rouge Park Master Plans

The majority of the Southeast Collector Trunk Sewer will be constructed using four Earth Pressure Balance Tunnelling Machines (EPBM), which are able to tunnel with minimal groundwater impact.

Other benefits of EPBM technology versus traditional 'open cut' technology for construction include:

- Dewatering or lowering of the water table is generally not required to facilitate the construction of a tunnel
- Reduction in construction nuisance to traffic
- Elimination of potential for direct impact to the environment as the construction of the sewer is located well below surface features

Continuing the Regions' legacy of leaving the environment in better condition than pre-construction, the Southeast Collector Trunk Sewer Project has identified 37 areas for enhancement in Markham and Pickering including natural environment, recreational improvements and infrastructure upgrades, all of which will be paid for by York Region.

The total investment for all projects (including 25 per cent contingency) is approximately **\$15 million**.

- \$8 million has been allocated for enhancements in the City of Pickering that will include:
  - Trails, wetlands and wildlife corridor habitat enhancements
  - Soccer fields and school yard environmental enhancements as well as environmental scholarship funding for public and separate school boards
- \$7 million has been allocated for enhancements in the Town of Markham and Bob Hunter Memorial Park that will include:
  - Trails, bridges, wetlands, tree planting, parking areas and school yard environmental enhancements
  - Environmental scholarship funding for the public and separate school boards.



For more information on the Southeast Collector Trunk Sewer Project, please visit [www.sectrunksewer.ca](http://www.sectrunksewer.ca)

For information on The Regional Municipality of York, please visit [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca)

For information on The Regional Municipality of Durham, please visit [www.durham.ca](http://www.durham.ca)

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# Backgrounder

## Southeast Collector Trunk Sewer Project

### Project Background

- The Southeast Collector (SEC) Trunk Sewer Project is a \$546 million joint infrastructure initiative between The Regional Municipality of York and The Regional Municipality of Durham. This project is a component of the York Durham Sewage System (YDSS) and was identified as a proposed component within the YDSS Master Plan (developed in 1997 and updated in 2002 and 2009).
- The Southeast Collector Trunk Sewer project is crucial for future growth in Ontario as identified in the *Places to Grow Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*.
- This vital sewage servicing infrastructure is necessary to meet the projected growth in both Regions for the next 25 years and will provide needed backup support for rehabilitation of the existing trunk sewer. Specifically, completion of the new Southeast Collector will permit inspection and rehabilitation of the existing pipe. It will provide critical backup and allow the existing SEC to be inspected and repairs carried out to prevent pipe failures such as those occurring in other GTA jurisdictions.
- Over the past five years, more than \$16 million has been invested in the very best scientific exploration, study and advice to determine the preferred solution for York and Durham's servicing needs. It has been very clear since the outset of the YDSS that the system would be expanded in stages to meet the longer term needs of our collective communities.
- Detailed environmental investigations undertaken for the SEC IEA were carried out within the context of the Minister-approved study area to meet requirements of the EA Act.
- This project has been thoroughly peer reviewed by a team of nationally respected technical experts – all leaders in their fields
- The SEC project will see expansion of existing sewage infrastructure - approximately 15 kilometres in length spanning large sections of both Markham and Pickering in York and Durham Regions.

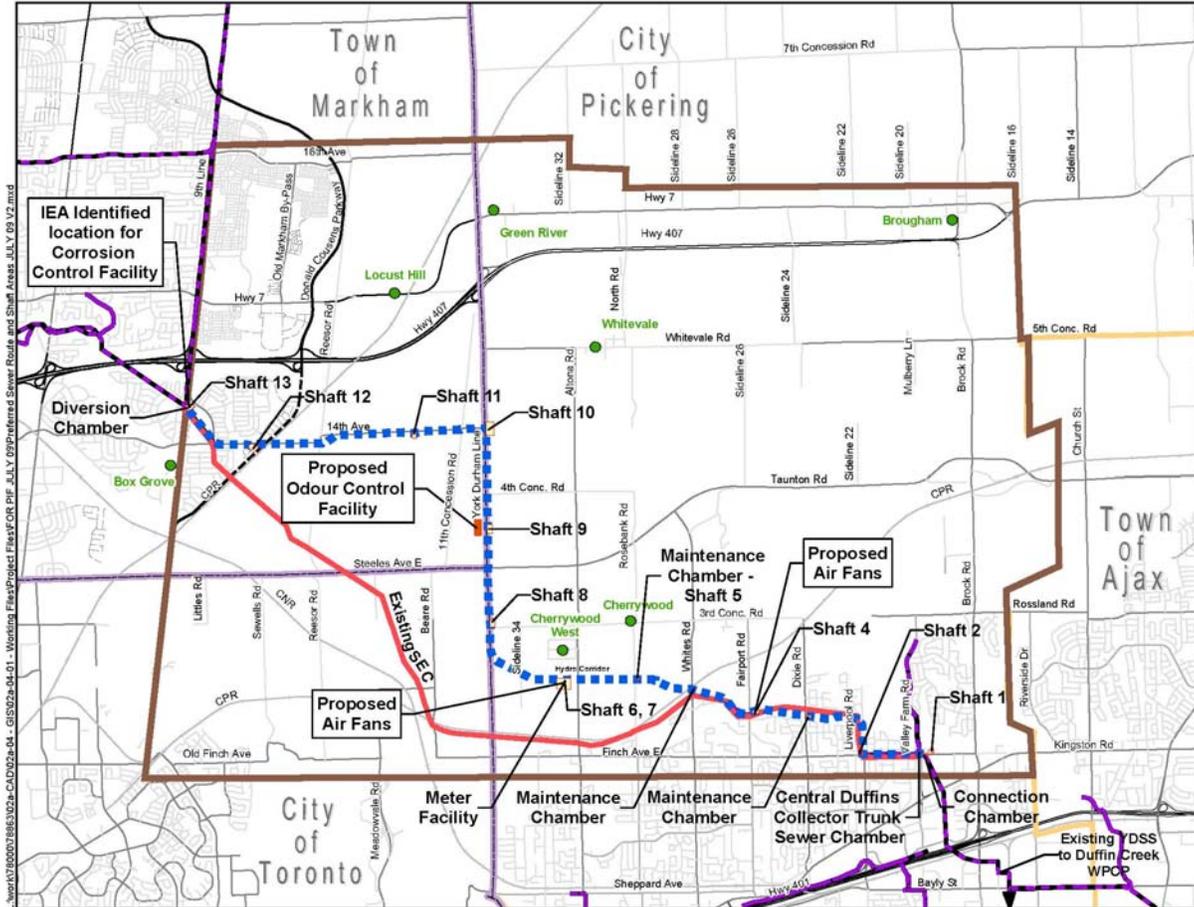
## Environmental Enhancements

- The Regions have committed to leaving the areas affected by construction of the Southeast Collector Trunk Sewer in as good – if not better – condition than prior to construction. To that end, the project team has evaluated and identified 37 key areas for enhancement.
- The Southeast Collector Trunk Sewer Project has identified 37 areas for enhancements in Markham and Pickering including natural environment, recreational improvements and infrastructure upgrades, all of which will be paid for by York Region.
- The investment total for all enhancement projects (including 25 per cent contingency) is approximately **\$15 million**
  - \$8 million has been allocated for enhancements in the City of Pickering that will include:
    - Trails, wetlands and wildlife corridor habitat enhancements
    - Soccer fields and school yard environmental enhancements
    - Environmental scholarship funding for public and separate school boards.
  - \$7 million has been allocated for enhancements in the Town of Markham that will include:
    - Trails, wetlands, tree planting and school yard environmental enhancements
    - Environmental scholarship funding for the public and separate school boards.
    - The Markham enhancements will significantly improve the features of the Rouge Park and Bob Hunter Memorial Park with the installation of trails, bridges, wetlands, parking areas, tree planting with an estimated value of \$6.2 million.
- York Region has a dedicated team assigned to work with the TRCA, Rouge Alliance, Town of Markham and the Hunter family to implement these enhancements
- Negotiations are currently underway the TRCA to provide the necessary resources for design and construction services of the planned work in the Bob Hunter Memorial and Rouge Park areas
- Rouge Park Alliance staff will provide guidance and advice on issues of Park planning, ecological enhancements and visitor experience
- Over the past two years, York Region has already spent \$800,000 on planning and designing of the Bob Hunter Memorial Park and Rouge Park enhancements.
- Design work is nearing completion for the first Phase of the Rouge Park and Bob Hunter Memorial Park improvements. Implementation of the enhancement projects is planned to start in the spring of 2010 upon receipt of Ministry approval of the SEC IEA project.
- Further agreements are pending for the remaining enhancements in the City of Pickering, Town of Markham and with the respective school boards following receipt of Ministry approval of the SEC IEA project.

## Technology

- Four Earth Pressure Balance Tunnelling Machines (EPBM) used for sewer tunnel construction were built locally by Lovat Inc.
- EPBMs are capable of excavating through most soft ground conditions including through wet soils with water pressures above the machine. Dewatering or lowering of the water table is generally not required to facilitate construction of a tunnel with an EPBM, except on a contingency basis.

## Southeast Collector Route



### Southeast Collector Trunk Sewer route:

Commences at the existing Southeast Collector Trunk Sewer, north of Box Grove in the Town of Markham – travels southeast to 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and continues east along 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Townline Road. The route then travels south along Townline Road to the Hydro Corridor, turning east along the Corridor to Liverpool Road. It proceeds south along Liverpool Road to Finch Avenue, turning east until it reconnects with the existing South East Collector Trunk Sewer at Finch Avenue and Valley Farm Road.

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