

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Tuesday, December 07, 2021

**TITLE: 2021 DISASTER MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION FUND (DMAF)
GRANT APPLICATION**

FROM:

Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco

Whereas, on August 19, 2005, a severe storm caused significant flooding in the Black Creek sub-watershed, illustrating the need to improve conveyance capacity and implement cost-effective retrofit and stream rehabilitation projects in the Black Creek Channel and Edgeley Pond; and

Whereas, the severe weather event and subsequent flooding highlighted that in order to achieve the vision for the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre (VMC), the City's emerging downtown, significant infrastructure is required to accommodate future development; and

Whereas, the Black Creek corridor is positioned to become a signature feature for the VMC that is poised to attract investment along its frontage, support urban growth and add value as a prominent open space amenity and natural heritage system; and

Whereas, the Black Creek renewal will mitigate the current flooding and erosion problems in the Black Creek Channel and Edgeley Pond while introducing enhancements to the natural heritage system and public realm associated with the Black Creek corridor; and

Whereas, the City is advancing the construction of this essential stormwater infrastructure to manage flood risks, improving ecological function and providing functional natural habitats - all while creating a first-of-its-kind destination in the VMC; and

Whereas, the construction of the works would create diverse job opportunities in the VMC for the construction sector and for many other sectors as lands adjacent to the Edgeley Pond and Black Creek Channel are able to develop once the flood mitigation in the area is complete; and

Whereas, a comprehensive financial strategy with multiple funding sources was established for the Black Creek Renewal project; and

Whereas, the works related to the Edgeley Pond and Black Creek Channel total approximately \$220 million; and

Whereas, a grant application for the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF) was submitted on October 15, 2021 for consideration; and

Whereas, a portion of the costs associated with the Edgeley Pond and Park and Black Creek Channel works is considered eligible for potential DMAF grant funding; and

Whereas, the amount of \$111.9 million of the total project costs was considered eligible and, if the application is successful, it would result in the maximum funding potential of \$89.6 million; and

Whereas, the VMC is the largest and most ambitious project in the City's history; and

Whereas, the VMC Secondary Plan sets a target that the downtown will be home to more than 25,000 people living in a projected 12,000 units, by 2031; and

Whereas, the VMC continues to exceed those growth targets despite the challenges presented by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas, the VMC is home to several transformational projects, including the VMC subway station, regional bus transit infrastructure, high-rise towers and commercial office buildings, which have created thousands of jobs.

It is therefore recommended:

1. THAT the Mayor issue written correspondence to the Federal Minister of Infrastructure and Communities; the Federal Minister of Finance, the Honourable Premier of Ontario; the Ontario Minister of Finance; the Ontario Minister of Infrastructure; and the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, to further outline the economic, social and environmental outcomes of the project; and

2. THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Federal Minister of Infrastructure and Communities; the Federal Minister of Finance; the Honourable Premier of Ontario; the Ontario Minister of Finance; the Ontario Minister of Infrastructure; the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM); the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA); the Local Members of Parliament (MPs); the Local Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) as well as York Region and its member municipalities.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Yeung Racco
Councillor Ward 4

Attachment

1. Memorandum to Mayor and Members of Council dated October 19, 2021 with respect to 2021 Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund – Black Creek Renewal Project