

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE JUNE 18,2001

**CONCORD THORNHILL REGIONAL PARK
CAPITAL BUDGET
MTO REQUIREMENTS**

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services, in consultation with the Director of Reserves and Investments recommends:

That the Capital Budget for Concord Thornhill Regional Park be increased by \$357,000.00; and,

That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary amendments to the contract in order to undertake the construction of berming, fencing and planting in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Transportation; and,

That the source of funding be from net funds that may be available from previously approved taxation funded capital projects.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to obtain authority to increase the capital budget for this project and to execute the necessary contract amendments to undertake the work required by MTO.

Background - Analysis

Concord Thornhill Regional Park is located adjacent to Highway 407 and accordingly, the Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act requires the City to obtain a land use permit from the MTO to construct the Park Facilities. In October of 1999, the consultants preparing the construction drawings for the Park applied for a permit from the Ministry of Transportation. Since this time, staff has had ongoing discussions with Ministry staff regarding Ministry requirements. In the meantime the Park construction proceeded. This permit is required prior to any of the facilities being used on the site.

Subsequently, during the past year staff and the consultants undertook meetings and submissions in an effort to resolve outstanding issues with the Ministry. This included grading and drainage, sports field layout, crossing of the transitway with water, path access and drainage all which were resolved in due course. There remained two outstanding Ministry issues. Ministry staff advised that the lighting of the sports fields and the park activities would be a visual distraction to the motorists on Highway 407, and therefore screening would be required.

The Ministry hired the firm of iTRANS to undertake a study of the park impact on the highway users, entitled Concord Thornhill Regional Park Illumination Impact Review. The recommendations from the study included a lighting redesign and a screen of 4 to 5 metres high along the entire 1100 metre park boundary. Staff and consultants met and made submissions to the Ministry to propose alternatives, and as a result the Ministry has agreed to a combination of berming and fencing along the boundary line, largely 3.0 metres in height with a reduction to 2.0 metres at the eastern end of the park to the limit of the last baseball diamond (approximately 800 metres of screening). In order to achieve this compromised plan additional topsoil and grading will be required to accommodate the fencing. The total estimated cost for this additional work is \$357,00.00. Staff have assumed the material for the berms will be supplied free of charge from adjacent development lands.

Conclusion

Based on the above it is recommended that the Capital Budget for Concord Thornhill Regional Park be increased by \$357,000.00, and that implementation occur in accordance with revised construction drawings. The Ministry has indicated that once this work has been done the permit will be issued. The City must obtain the permit from the Ministry prior to the Park being used.

Attachments

Correspondence from MTO of March 14, 2001.

Report prepared by:

Linda Laflamme, Landscape Architect, Parks Department, ext. 8231
Sue Montgomery, Manager of Landscape and Open Space Development

Respectfully submitted,

Doris Haas
Commissioner of Community Services

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March 14, 2001

Mr. Linda Laflamme
Landscape Architect
The City of Vaughan
5140 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan, Ontario
L4A 1T1

Dear Mr. Laflamme,

RE: **Consent Threshold Regional Park, Highway 407/Barbara Street,
City of Vaughan.**

We have completed our review of the last submission dated February 14, 2001 and based on the review, the following are our comments:

1. Proposed 1m screening between Point AA to Point BB, if acceptable.
2. From Point BB to Point CC 1m screening is required.
3. From Point CC to Point DD 2m screening can be provided.

The Ministry agrees to compromise on the height of the screening, from previously recommended 4.5m, to a 2m high fence along the entire (coverage of) Highway 407.

If the City agrees on the construction of a berm and fence to be constructed, as per February 14, 2001 letter/attachment then we will have to deal with some additional issues such as drainage, property requirements from 407 ETR for a berm construction and transition screen between a berm and fence.

Based on the vertical criteria used by your consultants, especially the 2.7m for the recreational vehicle, 407 ETR concurs with MTO comments regarding proposed screening.

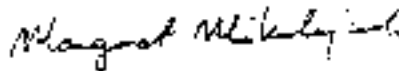
As 407 ETR indicated to the City at our Dec 5 meeting and its review, that 407 ETR would be receptive to permitting the use of the Highway 407 right-of-way for the earth berm construction (along the right-of-way limit). If that the City was in favour with this option, 407 ETR and MTO would require the following:

1. Detail plans of the fence, including typical fence sections, right-of-way relocation.
2. 407 ETR acceptance of the design and work method, including fence removal & replacement.
3. an encroachment permit containing the following conditions.
 - a. Letter of credit or financial guarantee for potential damages to the Hwy 407 right of way.
 - b. Surety insurance of \$10 million plus indemnity for 407 ETR & the Crown.

Please be advised that regardless whichever option is chosen by the City to proceed with, this Quarry and 407 ETR will require a detail plans and cross-sections of the proposed structure, to be submitted for our review and approval.

If you have any questions or require further clarification, please contact me at the e-mail listed above at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Margaret McKinley Cook, CEM
270, rue St-Jacques

CC: D. Agnew
G. Law
T. Hewitt
J. Boudreau