



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Fort York Pedestrian Bridge

Date:	May 20, 2008
To:	Executive Committee
From:	Richard Butts, Deputy City Manager
Wards:	Ward 19
Reference Number:	P:\2008\Cluster B\WF\ec08003

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's authority to reallocate funds within the 2008 Capital Budget for the Waterfront Revitalization Initiative to cover the increased cost of undertaking the environmental assessment (EA) for the Fort York Pedestrian Bridge project.

The 2008 Capital Budget for Waterfront Revitalization as approved by Council in December, 2007 included a total of \$300,000 in 2008 under the "Transportation Initiatives" sub-project to fund the EA. Staff undertook a formal procurement process and determined that the original allocation for this purpose was insufficient, and that an increase of \$140,000 to \$440,000 would be required. This will be accomplished by a reallocation of \$140,000 from the "Urban Planning Resources" sub-project to the "Transportation Initiatives" sub-project, with no net impact on the overall 2008 budget total for the Program of \$58,049,856.00. Sufficient funds will remain in the "Urban Planning Resources" sub-project to provide for two dedicated City Planning staff as of June 1, 2008 in response to the expedited time frames and additional workloads generated by the Waterfront Renewal.

The Fort York pedestrian bridge would provide an important new north-south pedestrian and cycling link from communities north of the Lakeshore rail corridor to Fort York and the Waterfront. The Fort York pedestrian bridge is targeted for completion in time for the bi-centennial commemoration of the War of 1812.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Deputy City Manager responsible for Waterfront Revitalization and the Waterfront Project Director recommend that:

1. the 2008 Capital Budget for Waterfront Revitalization as approved by Council in December, 2007 be amended to reflect an increase of \$140,000 to the “Transportation Initiatives” sub-project, and a decrease of \$140,000.00 to the “Urban Planning Resources” sub-project, with no net impact on the overall total for the Program.
2. The appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The recommendations in this report will permit an environmental assessment process for the Fort York Pedestrian Bridge to be undertaken in 2008.

Funds from within the Waterfront Capital Program as approved by Council in December 2008 will be adjusted by reallocating \$140,000.00 from the “Urban Planning Resources” sub-project to the “Transportation Initiatives” sub-project, with no net impact on the overall total for the Program.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of July 16 to 18, 2007, City Council approved the Waterfront Revitalization Initiative’s 5-Year Business Plan / 10-Year Forecast (2007-2016) contained in Executive Committee Meeting Report No. 10 and adopted the following motion:

“given that the bi-centennial of the War of 1812 is fast approaching, Waterfront Toronto and the Waterfront Secretariat be requested to review the timing of the pedestrian/bicycle link from Fort York northerly, for implementation prior to 2012 and report in time for the 2008 Capital Budget on this matter”.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/cc/decisions/2007-07-16-cc11-dd.pdf>

At its meeting of December 11, 12 and 13 2007 Council approved the report “Fort York Pedestrian Bridge “(November 2007) authorizing:

“staff of the Waterfront Secretariat, in partnership with other relevant divisions, to initiate the environmental assessment for the Fort York pedestrian bridge project in 2008, subject to approval of the 2008 Capital Budget for the Waterfront Revitalization Initiative”.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-8828.pdf>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

City staff have completed a Request for Proposals process and a Selection Committee has reviewed and assessed all proposals received. The qualified proposals include fee estimates which exceed the original budget estimate of \$300,000. In order to proceed with the preferred proponent, staff are requesting an increase in the allocation to \$440,000. This will be accomplished by reallocating \$140,000.00 from the “Urban Planning Resources” sub-project to the “Transportation Initiatives” sub-project, with no net impact on the overall total for the Program.

COMMENTS

The Fort York pedestrian bridge has the potential to be an iconic structure forming a western gateway to the downtown area. It complies with the Central Waterfront Secondary Plan which shows a key north-south pedestrian link at this location.

Fort York is a national historic site with a significant cultural context to be considered and respected through the EA process. The pedestrian bridge concept envisions a structure that is significant in length, would cross over the most active rail corridor in Canada, and would be built to a high level of urban and architectural design. The pedestrian bridge would be designed not to conflict with existing or proposed roads and rail lines.

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SIGNATURE

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