

Mr. Brian Bailey  
President,  
Citizens Concerned About the Future of the Etobicoke Waterfront (CCFEW)  
6 Meaford Avenue,  
Toronto, ON  
M8V 2H5

December 10, 2015

Dear Mr. Bailey:

**Re: *Sherway Trail and Restoration Project***

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Thank you for your inquiry regarding an update on the status of the Sherway Trail & Restoration Project.

A joint initiative of City of Toronto and TRCA, the Sherway Trail and restoration project was initiated in 2006 with the intention of constructing a 0.7 kilometre section of trail and one new pedestrian crossing in the Etobicoke Creek Valley within the City of Toronto. This trail extension would provide a vital safe and convenient connection under the Queen Elizabeth Way for pedestrians and cyclists and create an important link to Lake Ontario and the Waterfront Trail.

In addition to the trail alignment, this project would also incorporate a restoration component to enhance vegetation along the riparian zone, enhance natural corridors assist with mitigating the erosion along the creek banks and prevent sedimentation which is a threat to aquatic species.

The following provides an overview of project milestones and accomplishments to date:

**Project Background**

- In 2006 City of Toronto and TRCA staff, under the leadership of local councilor, agreed to secure Section 37 funds from condo development along Evans Ave. Section 37 funding was secured to support this initiative. The initial trail alignment and concept plan was developed and circulated to project partners for review and approval in 2007-2008
- In 2009, TRCA prepared detail design drawings and cost estimate for the trail construction. In 2009, TRCA staff also proceeded (on behalf of the City) with an application to the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) for an encroachment permit to support the trail connection underneath the QEW overpass.
- In 2010, the MTO encroachment permit was placed on hold temporarily because the Ontario Realty Corporation (ORC) had decided to dispose a portion of the MTO owned table land adjacent to QEW. This temporary hold was then further extended due to concerns of contamination on these lands from the Ministry of Environment (MOE).

- In 2011, MTO agreed to remediate and monitor these lands as requested by MOE.
- In March of 2012, City of Toronto (CoT) Council approved a motion to amend the Council approved 2012 Capital Budget for TRCA to create a new capital project called Sherway Trail Construction and Restoration funded by Section 37 agreements from the 700 Evans Ave. development.
- In 2014, MTO confirmed that the lands had been remediated and that MOE had confirmed that the soil conditions were acceptable to support recreational trail use. MTO informed TRCA that they could proceed with securing the required permits, approvals and agreements required for the project.
- In April of 2015, based on a site visit, TRCA and City team decided
  - to update the 2009 design to address erosion and drainage changes related to the MTO works on the site, tree impact assessment and arborist report as well asphalt surfacing.
  - up dated cost estimates for the implementation of the project.
  - follow up with MTO to move forward with securing the easement agreement required to support the trail alignment and to secure the encroachment permit required for the section of trail underneath the QEW.
- In June of 2015, the survey work, detail design for the trail (not including pedestrian crossing) was completed and internal TRCA approvals was secured. In the summer of 2015, CoT staff was in the process of completing the necessary works required to secure the easement with MTO to support the trail connection.
- The project is ready to be implemented, pending MTO easement, construction design of one bridge crossing, and availability of funds.

#### **Budget Status:**

- As of 2015, the estimated cost to implement the Sherway Trail & Restoration Project is \$550,000- \$600,000 (cost estimate includes asphalt surface trail and pedestrian node).
- It is staff's understanding from a meeting with local councillors office In October 2015, that due to delay on this project and other community priority needs, the Section 37 funds had been reallocated for other immediate priorities. Councillor's office will look into future opportunities to secure funds.
- TRCA has included this project as a future unmet need in their 2016 Budget request to the City.
- City of Toronto's Cycling Infrastructure group within the Transportation Services division has confirmed that they have allocated funds (approximately \$200K) in their 2016 budget to support the Sherway Trail Project.
- TRCA has ~\$21,000 in its current capital budget to support implementation of restoration works associated with the project.
- City of Toronto's Parks, Forestry & Recreation has not committed any additional funding for 2016. The only funding commitment in 2016 is from Transportation in the amount of 200K. Therefore the funding shortfall is 350K-400K.

**Next Steps:**

- Secure remaining funds for project
- CoT to complete easement agreement with MTO to support trail connection.
- CoT to resubmit Encroachment Permit request to MTO required for the section of trail underneath the QEW.
- TRCA to retain engineering consultant to complete detail design for pedestrian crossing
- TRCA to secure internal approvals for pedestrian crossing.
- TRCA to prepare bridge tender packages and secure contract to build and install pedestrian crossing.
- TRCA to construct trail
- TRCA to retain contractor to install asphalt surface along trail
- TRCA to work CoT and City of Mississauga to develop trail kiosk and signage for pedestrian node.
- TRCA to work with staff and the local community implement site specific restoration plan to help enhance vegetation and along the riparian zone which will assist with mitigating the erosion along the creek banks, prevent sedimentation and enhance habitat and natural corridor connections for local wildlife.

Once completed this project will help to close and restore the informal trails within the projects site and create a formal multi-use trail connection which can be managed and maintained by the City.

**Memo prepared by:** Vince D'Elia, Etobicoke & Mimico Creek Watershed Project Manager, Community Restoration and Corporate Greening Program

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**Date:** December 10, 2015