

Ministry of the Environment
and Climate Change

Ministère de l'Environnement
et de l'Action en matière de
changement climatique



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Ms. Maogosha Pyjor
Senior Public Consultation Coordinator
City of Toronto
Metro Hall
55 John Street, 19th Floor
Toronto ON M5V 3C6

Ms. Violetta Savage
Project Manager
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
5 Shoreham Drive
Toronto ON M3N 1S4

Dear Ms. Pyjor and Ms. Savage:

Between December 6 and 13, 2016, I received four Part II Order requests asking that the City of Toronto and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (Proponents) be required to prepare an individual environmental assessment for proposed East Don Trail (Project).

I am taking this opportunity to inform you that I have decided that an individual environmental assessment is not required. This decision was made after giving careful consideration to the issues raised in the request, the Project documentation, the provisions of the Municipal Engineers Association's Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Class Environmental Assessment), and other relevant matters required to be considered under subsection 16(4) of the *Environmental Assessment Act* (Act).

Despite my not requiring an individual environmental assessment be prepared, in reviewing the requests, it was noted that asphalt was the preferred surface for the Project, consistent with the City of Toronto's *Multi-Use Trail Design Guidelines*. The guidelines suggest that other firm, durable, hard surfaces that are porous to rainfall and conform to accessibility requirements may be investigated during detailed design. In addition, concerns were raised regarding the bridge structures and how it may impact the natural environment. In order to ensure this is examined, I am imposing the following conditions on the Project:

1. During detailed design of the Project, the Proponents shall investigate using other firm, durable, and hard surface materials that conform to accessibility

requirements and are porous to rainfall, as outlined in the City of Toronto's Multi-Use Trail Design Guidelines.

2. During detailed design of the Project, the Proponents shall engage a landscape architect and other design professionals to advise on the enhancement of the visual aesthetics of the bridges and ensure that the bridges are integrated into the trail system with minimal disruption to the natural environment (e.g. rivers and habitat)..
3. The Proponents shall ensure that the Project is in compliance with the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*.
4. The Proponents shall invite representatives from City of Toronto cycling organizations to participate during detailed design for the Project.
5. The Proponents shall consider best management practices during detailed design for construction and operation of the Project to ensure that disruption to Charles Sauriol Conservation Area, the East Don River, and other natural features in the Project area are minimized.
 - a. During the development of the Project's signage plan, the Proponents shall consider dedicated signage to encourage users to stay on the trail and within designated areas.
 - b. During detailed design, the Proponents shall consider implementing lookout points, where appropriate.
6. The Proponents shall report to the ministry's Director of the Environmental Approvals Branch, and outline how Conditions 1-5 were met.

During my review, I also noted there were concerns expressed about the potential conflict between different trail users. While I understand the City's rationale to minimize the Project's footprint, I encourage the City to further consider other trail configurations during detailed design that separate pedestrians and cyclists and minimize potential user conflict.

The reasons for my decision may be found in the attached table. In the interest of transparency, I encourage you to make this letter available to the greater public on the Proponents' websites.

With this decision having been made, the Proponents can now proceed with the Project, subject to the conditions I have imposed. The Proponents must ensure the Project is implemented in the manner it was developed and designed, as set out in the Project

Ms. Maogosha Pyjor and Ms. Violetta Savage
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documentation, and inclusive of all mitigating measures, and environmental and other provisions therein.

Lastly, I would like to ensure that the Proponents understand that failure to comply with the Act, the provisions of the Class Environmental Assessment, and failure to implement the Project in the manner described in the planning documents, are contraventions of the Act and may result in prosecution under section 38 of the Act.

I am confident that the Proponents recognize the importance and value of the Act and will ensure that its requirements and those of the Class Environmental Assessment are satisfied.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Ballard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "C".

Chris Ballard
Minister of the Environment and Climate Change

Attachment

c: Requesters

EA File No. 16112
East Don Trail (Toronto)