



February 2007

Media Backgrounder

York Durham Sewage System Interceptor Sewer

The existing YDSS trunk sewer generally follows the Yonge Street corridor through the urbanized area of the Oak Ridges Moraine in Richmond Hill. There is a need to divert flow from the Yonge Street corridor to protect existing residences from potential basement flooding and to accommodate the future approved growth identified in the York Region Official Plan.

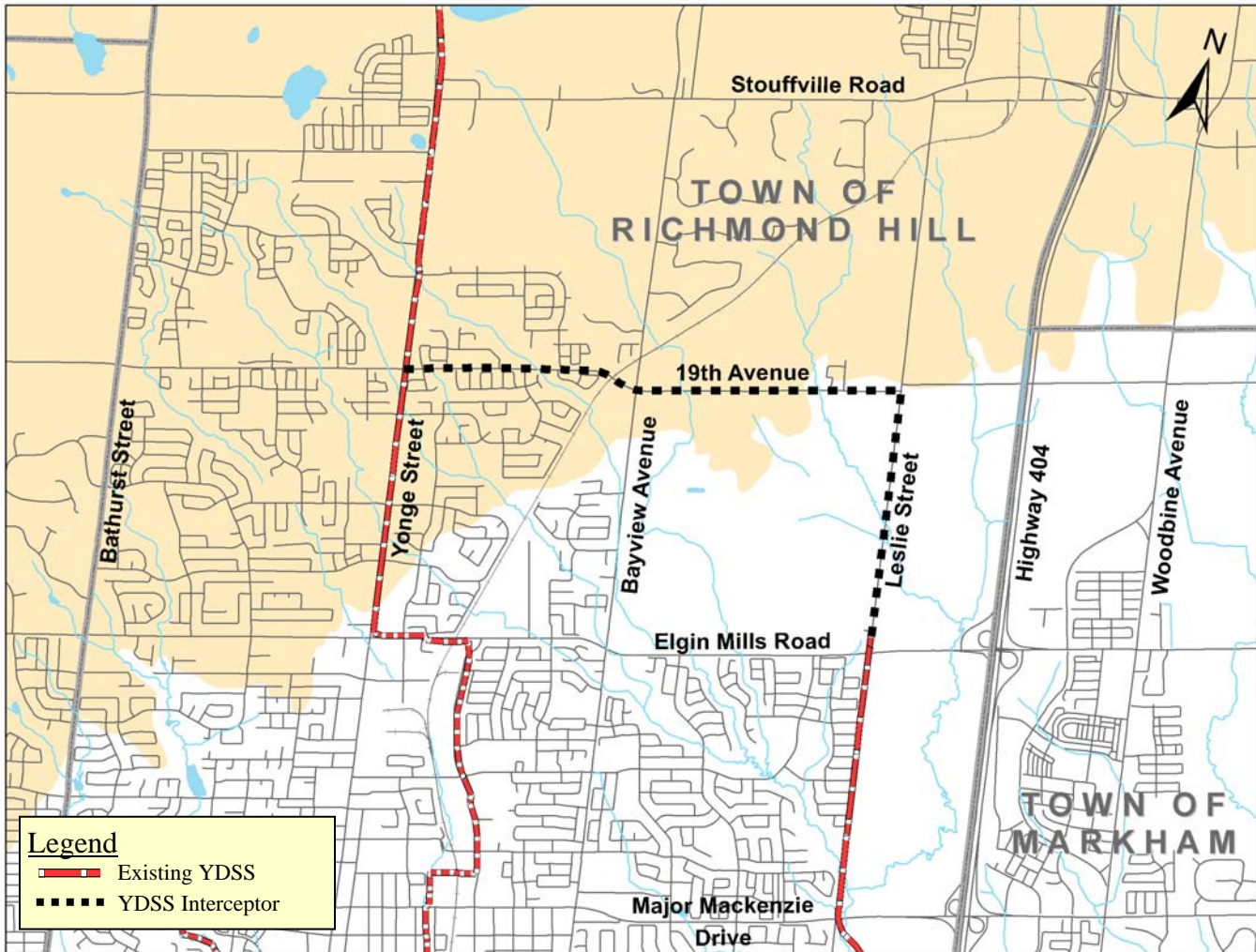
A Class 'B' Environmental Assessment (EA) was conducted on the project, identifying a preferred route for the Interceptor along 19th Avenue from the existing pipe at Yonge Street, eastward to Leslie Street and south along Leslie Street to the existing Trunk Sewer just north of Elgin Mills Road. A Part II Order "Bump-Up" request on all unfinished YDSS projects was filed with the Ministry of the Environment in 2004 that asked for this project and other YDSS projects to be completed as Individual Environmental Assessments. In the case of the YDSS Interceptor Sewer Project, this bump up request was denied; however, the Minister placed 11 conditions on the project and allowed it to proceed as a Class EA.

Project Status:

- In addition to the Class EA, the Minister of the Environment's 11 conditions required the Region to conduct a new comparison of alternative route alignments. The new comparison provided an exhaustive and comprehensive look at 10 options covering various routes and construction methods. All technical documentation was submitted for an independent peer review by a team of experts from across Canada. Public consultation included engagement of stakeholders through a number of "Charettes," an active Web site, a Stakeholders Advisory Committee and Information Forums.
- The preferred route was confirmed through an evaluation and ranking process, as 19th Avenue tunnelled from just east of Yonge Street to just south of 19th Avenue on Leslie Street, continuing south on Leslie Street in open cut construction to north of Elgin Mills Road. The final report on the New Comparison of Alternative Route Alignments was sent to the Ministry of the Environment (MOE). These documents are available on the project's Web site <http://ydss.cenet.ca>
- The 19th Avenue/Leslie Street route was selected as the preferred option because it featured:
 - least amount of dewatering
 - least amount of impact to the Oak Ridges Moraine aquifer
 - least amount of disruption to local residents and businesses and the travelling public
- 19th Avenue is also scheduled for road reconstruction in 2008/2009, and the proposed sewer would run directly underneath the road right-of-way.
- The project is in full compliance with the Oak Ridges Moraine (ORM) Act.

Project Description:

The preferred alignment is along 19th Avenue from Yonge Street to Leslie, and south on Leslie to the existing connection at Elgin Mills. It comprises 4.1 km of sewer constructed using Earth Pressure Balance Tunnel Machines, which minimizes the need for dewatering. The remaining 1.6 km down Leslie Street will be constructed using conventional open cut construction. Project information can be viewed on the project Web site (<http://ydss.cenet.ca>).



Contract Details:

Two contracts have been awarded for the construction of the Interceptor sewer – the Leslie Street open cut portion has been awarded to Memme Construction and the 19th Avenue tunnelled portion has been awarded to McNally/Aecon Joint Venture.

Construction Schedule:

The Leslie Street open cut portion is scheduled for completion in early 2007.
The 19th Avenue tunnelled portion is scheduled for completion in early 2008.

For more information, the media should visit the York Region Web site: www.york.ca or contact:
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