



February 2007

Media Backgrounder

York Durham Sewage System Southeast Collector Trunk Sewer

The existing York Durham Sewage System (YDSS) Southeast Collector (SEC) trunk sewer is an integral component of the overall YDSS trunk sewer system. It moves wastewater from communities throughout York Region, as well as Pickering in Durham Region, to the Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) located in Pickering. The portion of the SEC within Durham Region is co-owned by the Regions of York and Durham, who are co-proponents on this project.

The existing SEC is approximately 14 km long, extending from 9th Line in the community of Box Grove to Valley Farm Road in the City of Pickering. Wastewater flows are ultimately conveyed to the Duffin Creek WPCP for treatment, which is jointly owned by the Regions of York and Durham.

The existing SEC is projected to reach capacity by approximately 2010. In order to accommodate the planned growth of York Region, a full range of alternative solutions to address the capacity constraints in the SEC must be assessed.

A Part II Order "Bump-Up" request on all unfinished YDSS Projects was filed with the Minister of the Environment in 2004. In response to this request, it was decided that the SEC project merited an Individual Environmental Assessment (IEA).

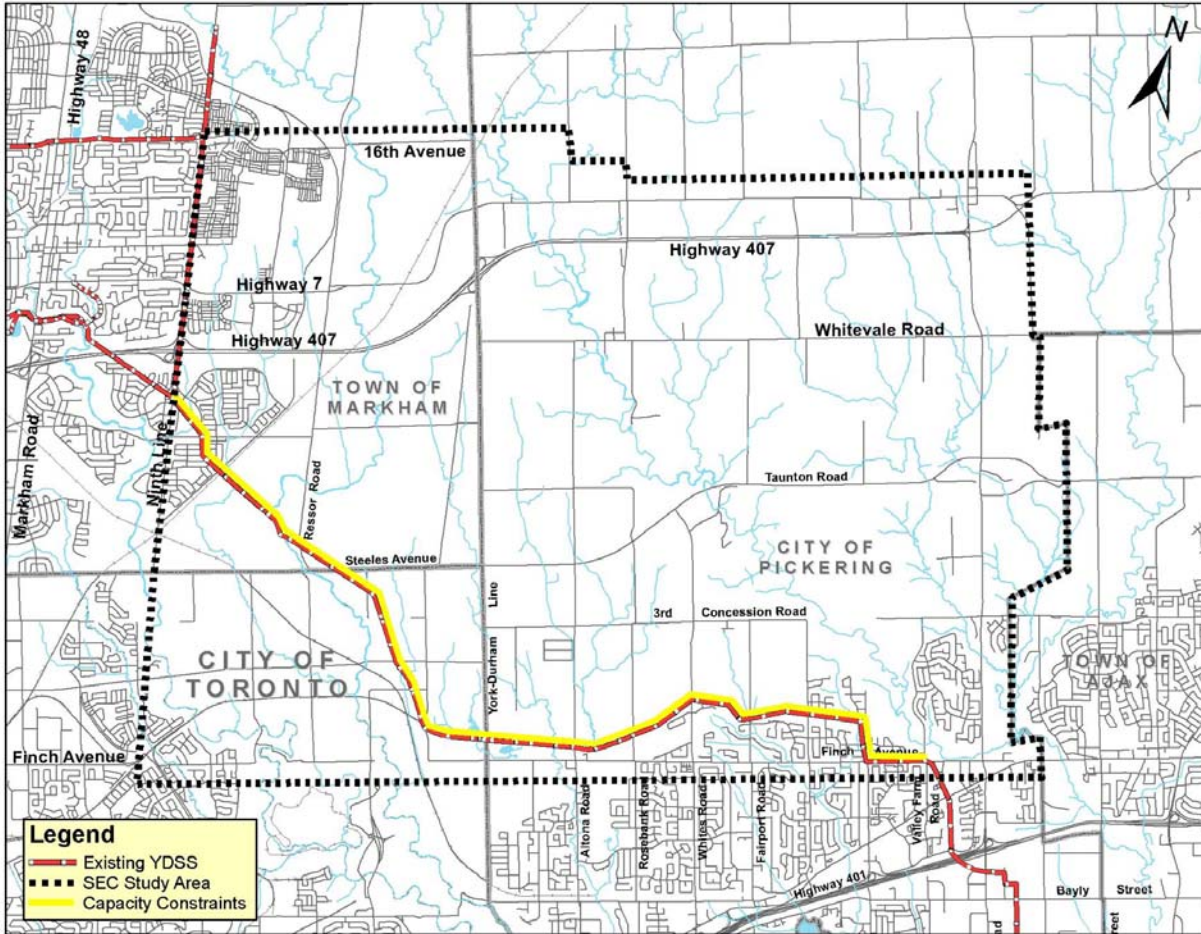
Project Status:

- The Individual Environmental Assessment is underway. The Terms of Reference have been approved by the Minister of the Environment
- Prior to submission for approval, the Terms of Reference for the Individual EA were independently Peer Reviewed by a team of experts from across Canada

Project Description:

The IEA will consider a range of alternative solutions including the twinning of the SEC to address the capacity constraints between the community of Box Grove in York Region and Valley Farm Road in Durham Region. While a preferred solution has not yet been determined, the study area is generally bounded by 16th Avenue and Highway 7 to the north, 9th Line to the west, Finch Avenue to the south, and the Pickering-Ajax municipal boundary and Sideline 16 to the east. A range of alternative solutions will be considered, including gravity and pumped systems, additional treatment systems, additional pipe capacity and source control initiatives, such as inflow and infiltration reduction and further water efficiency measures.

Considerable field work is underway to collect baseline data on the natural environment, in addition to geotechnical data, well survey information, cultural/heritage information and groundwater monitoring. A comprehensive public consultation program is an integral part of the IEA process. A range of consultation initiatives are underway to involve the public and stakeholders on each phase of the IEA process. Consultation initiatives include a stakeholder/public advisory committee, public information forums and public outreach initiatives, as well as newsletters and a project Web site. This information can be viewed on the project Web site (<http://sec.cenet.ca>)



Costs:

The preferred option has not been identified. All alternatives will include a cost estimate as part of the Individual Environmental Assessment.

Construction Schedule:

Completion of the Individual EA is anticipated for 2007. The preferred option that is identified by the Individual EA is required to be in service by 2010.

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

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