

October 2005

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 system to protect existing residences from potential basement flooding and to accommodate the future approved growth currently identified in the York Region Official Plan.

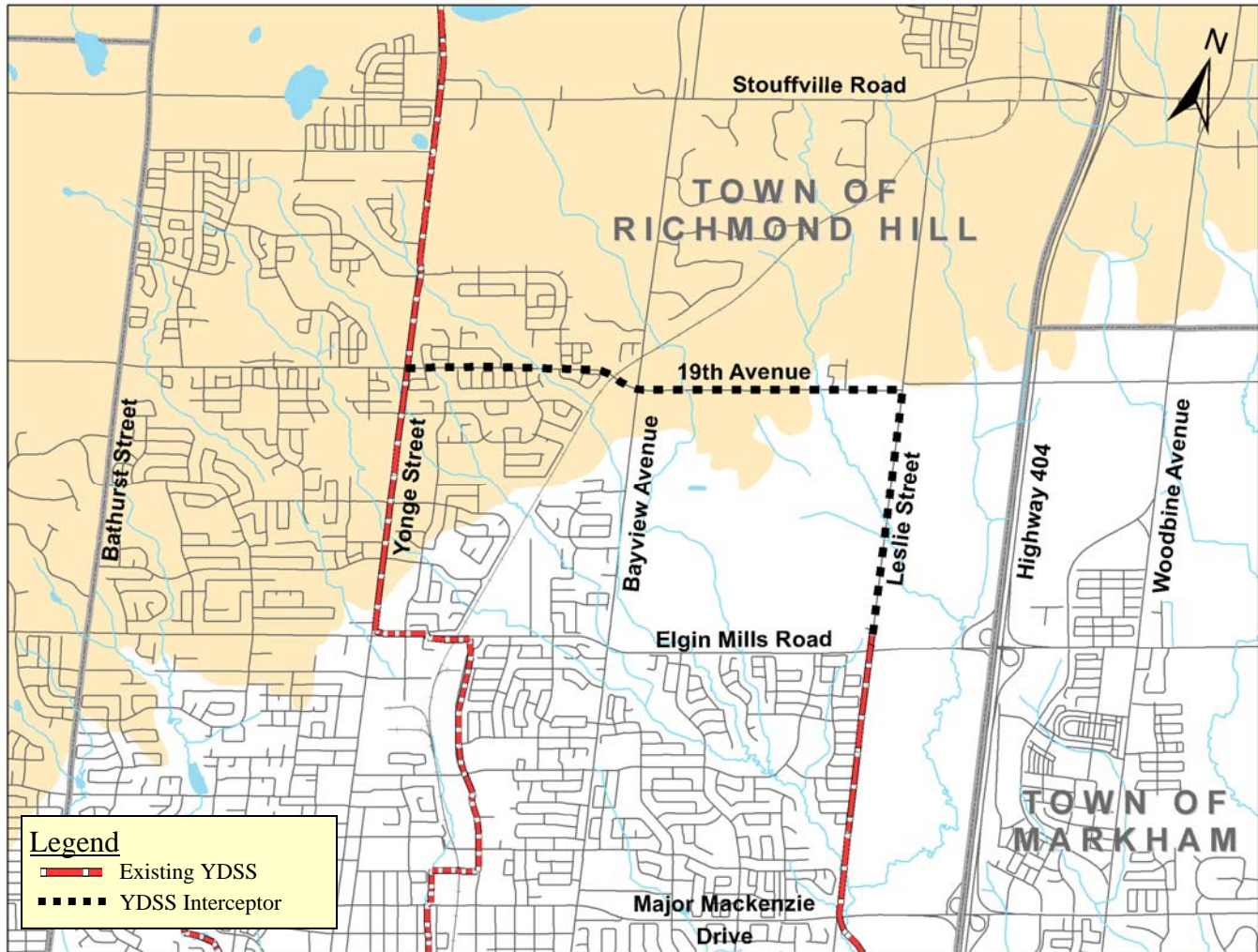
A Class 'B' Environmental Assessment (EA) was conducted on the project, identifying a preferred route for the interceptor along 19th Avenue from the existing pipe at Yonge Street, eastward to Leslie Street and south along Leslie Street to the existing Trunk Sewer just north of Elgin Mills Road. A Part 2 Order "Bump-Up Request" on all unfinished YDSS projects was filed with the Minister's Office. In the case of the YDSS Interceptor Sewer Project, this bump up request was denied, however, the Minister placed 11 conditions on the project.

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 four volumes of documents were sent to the Ministry of the Environment (MOE). These documents will be available on the Region's Web site on October 24th, 2005.
- The 19th Avenue/Leslie Street route was selected as the preferred option because it featured:
 - least amount of de-watering
 - 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 2006/2007, and the sewer runs directly underneath the road. Therefore sewer construction and road construction can be coordinated.
- 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 5.5 km of sewer constructed using Earth Pressure Balance Machines, which minimizes the need for dewatering. The remaining 1.5 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>).



Costs:

The preferred option has an estimated capital cost of \$57 million which includes a 30% contingency allowance. This option remains \$11M lower than the next comparable option, along Yonge/Elgin Mills.

Construction Schedule:

Upon receipt of all permits and approvals, construction is anticipated to be in two stages. The Leslie Street open cut section will be tendered by the end of 2005 and the tunnelled portion along 19th Avenue will be awarded early in 2006.

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

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