



February 2007

Media Backgrounder

York Durham Sewage System 16th Avenue, Phase II

The second phase of the 16th Avenue project will link the 16th Avenue Phase I sewer at Stone Mason Drive with the existing Highway 404 Trunk Sewer located just east of Woodbine Avenue

Project Status:

The PTTW for Phase II of the 16th Avenue Trunk Sewer project was obtained in October 2004.

Phase II construction began in April 2005 once all approved mitigation infrastructure was in place and monitoring had begun. The Region has now completed approximately 85% of the project; tunnelling operations concluded in July 2006.

Due to the construction of the McCowan shaft (McCowan and 16th Avenue) late in 2005 dewatering pumping was reduced to approximately 7000 litres per minute. Construction dewatering will no longer be required after December 2006. However, dewatering will continue in order to meet supplementation needs under the current PTTW. Dewatering for supplementation purposes this winter will be in the order of 2500 litres per minute.

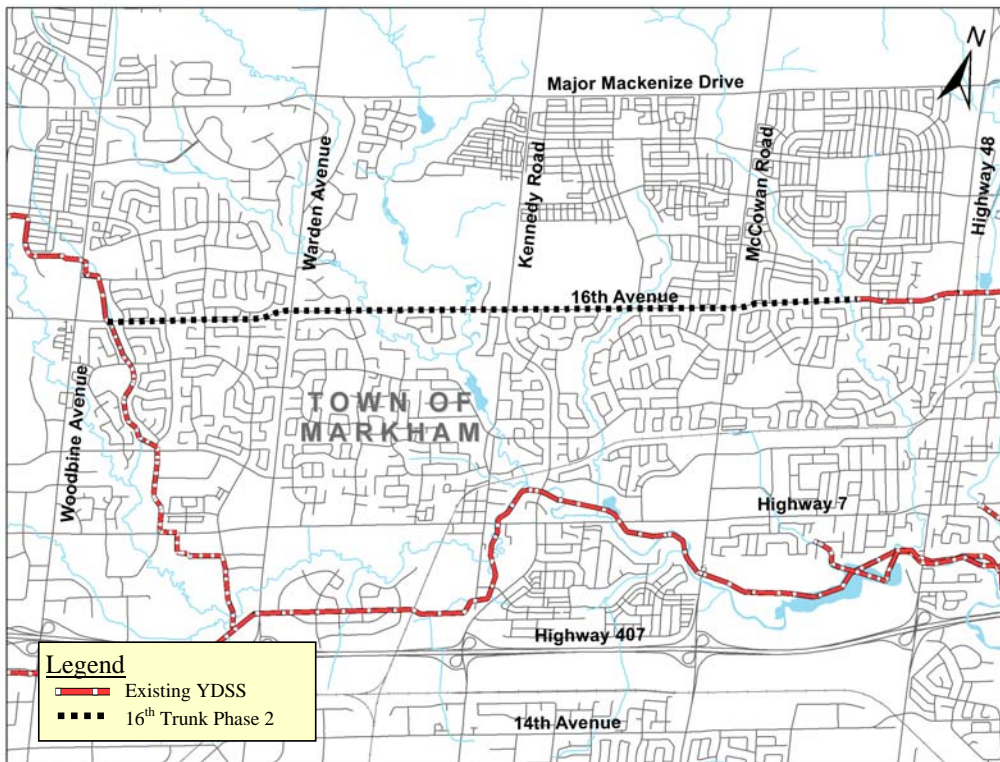
An amendment to the current PTTW was submitted to the MOE in July, 2006 and is being reviewed by the MOE. Approval of the amendment will allow dewatering rates to be further reduced and eventually phased out.

Project Description:

Phase II of the 16th Avenue Trunk Sewer is 7.2 km, with the sewer pipe diameter ranging from 2100 mm to 2700 mm

Construction/Schedule:

- Phase II is now approximately 85 per cent complete with completion anticipated in spring 2007
- The method of construction used for the 16th Avenue Trunk Sewer project is conventional tunnelling
- In order to safely construct the shafts and the tunnels of this sewer to the required depth, the groundwater level must be lowered by pumping the deep aquifer to lower groundwater levels below the depth of the shaft and along the length of the tunnel
- At its peak, York Region was permitted to remove 38,000 litres per minute of water
- Proactive construction of the McCowan shaft reduced dewatering to approximately 7000 litres per minute.
- Construction dewatering will no longer be required after December 2006. However, dewatering will continue in order to meet supplementation needs under the current PTTW.
- Dewatering for supplementation purposes this winter will be in the order of 2500 litres per minute.
- An amendment to the current PTTW was submitted to the MOE in July, 2006 and is being reviewed by the MOE. Approval of the amendment will allow dewatering rates to be further reduced and eventually phased out.
- Permitted water takings amount to approximately three per cent of the total aquifer storage and there is no long-term impact on the aquifer
- The aquifer is steadily recovering and it is expected that a 50 per cent recovery rate at the Stone Mason Drive shaft will be realized by spring 2007
- Site restoration and environmental improvements will be completed in 2007



Costs:

The total project cost is approximately \$100 million. This includes an extensive \$30 million Environmental Management and Well Mitigation Plan which was developed to avoid and mitigate temporary impacts resulting from the project. The private well mitigation plan includes modification of existing wells, provision of new wells or connection to municipal water supplies, as appropriate.

Private Well Mitigation Program:

The Region established the program to ensure that residents who are affected by temporary local de-watering from the project would have access to potable drinking until their wells rebounded. To date, the Region has spent \$7 million to provide new wells, connect residents to municipal water supplies or modify existing wells.

York Region continues to encourage residents who feel that their wells have been impacted by the 16th Avenue Trunk Sewer project to contact the toll-free 24-hour per day hotline at 1-888-445-4418. Wells will be assessed within 24 hours of the call. Further information on the Environmental Management and Well Mitigation Plan and the project can be found on the project Web site: <http://16ave.cenet.ca>

For more information, the media should visit the York Region Web site: www.york.ca or contact: Patrick Casey, Director, Corporate Communications, Office of the CAO, Regional Municipality of York 905-830-4444 / Toll Free: 1-877-464-9675, ext. 1235 / Cell: 905 715-8211 email: patrick.casey@york.ca

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