



## TOWN OF INNISFIL STAFF REPORT

**Staff Report No.:** DSR-041-18  
**Date:** March 7, 2018  
**To:** Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Members of Council  
**From:** Jeremy Nyenhuis, Drainage Superintendent  
Jason Inwood, Strategic Leader - Operations  
**Subject:** South Innisfil Creek Drain Delegation with the Ministry of Transportation

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### RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council endorses staff's recommendation to provide the Ministry of Transportation with all applicable draft findings of the South Innisfil Creek Drain, prior to the engineers report being presented to Council, in order to expedite the Ministry review of the Highway 400 crossings of the municipal drain.

### BACKGROUND:

Deputy Mayor Lynn Dollin and members of staff met with the Honourable Kathryn McGarry (Minister of Transportation) and staff members of the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) at a delegation on February 26, 2018 at the Ontario Good Roads Association annual conference to discuss the South Innisfil Creek Drain (SICD) and the Highway 400 Crossing.

Town staff made a presentation to the Minister and her staff outlining the status of the SICD drainage report, the history of the drain and the flooding upstream of the Highway 400 crossing. Staff also discussed the current Highway 400 crossing and how MTO consultants have recommended multiple times the replacement of this crossing before the overall Highway 400 Improvements take place. Lastly the design work for the interim Highway 89 interchange was discussed.

### ANALYSIS/CONSIDERATION:

During the delegation staff identified to MTO that if the Ministry and the Town of Innisfil could work collaboratively on a solution to include the replacement of the Highway crossings as part of the Highway 89 interchange project, there would be a great cost savings opportunity for both parties.

Teepu Khawja, Regional Director Provincial Highway Management Division, indicated that the design on the interim Highway 89 interchange was not as far along as they had hoped and they would encourage the Town to share any draft Municipal Drainage Study (or at least details specific to this location) with the MTO team as soon as possible. Rather than waiting until after Council approves the drainage report being completed by R.J. Burnside, (which was indicated

as being expected in May/June of this year), MTO could undertake a review and consideration of the proposed works for potential inclusion in the current works planned at the Highway 89 & Highway 400 interchange expected to commence later this year. This would provide both parties additional time to explore whether the MTO could accept the recommendations and incorporate them into their current interchange project without impacting timelines for both the highway works and the proposed drainage improvements.

As a result of the discussion with the Honourable Kathryn McGarry and Mr. Khawja's comments during the delegation, Town staff strongly encourage Council to pass a resolution to approve the sharing of information on the SICD prior to the final report being presented to Council with the intention of MTO using this information to help design and replace the Highway 400 crossing as part of the interim Highway 89 interchange project.

**OPTIONS/ALTERNATIVES:**

Council has the option to direct staff to not share relevant information until formally passing the full engineers report, however, staff strongly recommend endorsing staff's recommendation in order to expedite MTO's review of the Highway 400 crossings of the municipal drain.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:**

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

**CONCLUSION:**

Staff strongly recommend Council endorses the recommendation to provide the Ministry of Transportation with all applicable draft findings of the South Innisfil Creek Drain, prior to the engineers report being presented to Council, in order to expedite the MTO's review of the Highway 400 crossings of the municipal drain.

**PREPARED BY:**

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**APPROVED BY:**

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