

**Community Development**  
Engineering + Transportation Services  
The City of Cambridge  
Email: macdonaldscott@cambridge.ca

April 27, 2018

**Re: Riverside Dam Class EA – Update to Preliminary Preferred Alternative**

Dear Sir/Madam,

You have previously indicated an interest and/or provided comments for the Riverside Dam Class Environmental Assessment (EA). The City of Cambridge is preparing to finalize the Class EA and is seeking your feedback and comments on recent updates being made to the Project File.

**This letter is providing notification that a “preliminary preferred alternative” to rebuild Riverside Dam will be brought forward in the updated Class EA Project File. At this time the Project Team is asking for your feedback and comments, by May 18, 2018 in a letter or e-mail, regarding the selection of this “preliminary preferred alternative”.**

On March 6, 2018 City of Cambridge staff delivered Report 18-016(CD) asking Council to authorize staff to file the Class EA Project File and post the Notice of Completion for the 30-day review period. The draft Class EA Project File included a preliminary preferred alternative to **remove Riverside Dam and Naturalize the Speed River**.

In response to a significant community appeal to rebuild or repair Riverside Dam, Council acknowledged that the existence of a dam and mill pond in Preston is an asset of significant historical value and pride to the community that should be maintained. Council also considered Riverside Dam to be essential to the enjoyment of Riverside Park and the identity of Preston. As a result, Council deferred the proposed recommendation and asked staff to report back on how to proceed with **rebuilding and/or repairing the dam**. In response, staff and the project consultant revisited the criteria assessment and considered next steps to complete the Class EA.

On April 17, 2018 Council received Report 18-066(CD) from staff that outlined an approach to revisit the “preliminary preferred alternative”. This approach included revisiting the Class EA evaluation criteria, which represent the natural, social, cultural, economic, and technical aspects of the environment under study. These evaluation criteria were weighted for relative importance in consultation with stakeholders, and then applied during the EA process to determine the “preliminary preferred alternative”. In response to community input and feedback received from Council, the significance of the economic, liability and flooding evaluation criteria have been revisited to align with the direction of Council and the public.

During the month of May, the Project Team will seek public input and will meet with agencies to receive their comments. All public and agency feedback received during this time will be incorporated into the draft Project File and staff will prepare a report to Council in June 2018 seeking their approval to file the Class EA Project File and post the Notice of Completion for the 30-day review period. You will receive a notification letter advising you of when the staff report will be presented to Council. Posting of the Notice of Study Completion will commence a 30-day (or more) public review period.

Once the Notice of Study Completion has been posted, members of the public who have unresolved concerns can appeal to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change to ask the City to prepare an Individual EA (a “Part II Order”). If no Part II Order requests are received during the public review period, the City can proceed to implement the “preferred alternative”.

Questions or comments regarding this notice should be directed by May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 to Scott MacDonald, Project Engineer, by letter or e-mail at [macdonaldscott@cambridge.ca](mailto:macdonaldscott@cambridge.ca) or by calling (519) 621-0740 ext. 4679.

Yours truly,



Scott MacDonald, P. Eng.  
Project Engineer

cc: Councillor Donna Reid  
Councillor Mike Mann

Note: Please contact Scott MacDonald if you no longer wish to remain on the mailing list for the above noted matter. We would also appreciate notification of any change of address or incorrect information that pertains to you.