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*for your
information*



Stormwater Management Financing Study Frequently Asked Questions (Q & A)

Q – Why is the City of Mississauga doing a Stormwater Financing Study?

A – The City's stormwater infrastructure is aging and will need additional operation, maintenance and capital improvement costs to sustain service levels required from environmental regulations or service expectations of residents and businesses. It has reached a point where the City needs to look for new ways to fund this critical service. The current financing approach using property taxes and development charges will not be sustainable in the future.

Q – When did the Stormwater Financing Study begin?

A – In September 2011, City Council authorized staff to undertake a Stormwater Financing Study. In February 2012, the City contracted AECOM, an engineering consulting firm with a project team experienced in stormwater financing reviews, to complete a comprehensive study to look at new ways beyond property taxes and development charges to support current and future stormwater management needs.

Q – What does the City of Mississauga's Stormwater Financing Study involve?

A – It will identify, review and evaluate alternative funding options to support the City's stormwater management program and recommend a new funding model. To achieve this goal, the following steps are underway:

- determine the cost of the City's existing stormwater management program including operations and maintenance, asset management, planning and monitoring and capital plans;
- evaluate various stormwater management program options and recommend a program that will meet desired service levels, compliance/regulation targets and future funding pressures;
- review stormwater financing options;
- recommend the preferred option that offers a fair and equitable method for allocating the costs of the stormwater management and
- develop a strategy to implement the recommendations.

The formation of a Stormwater Financing Stakeholder Group will include representation from ratepayer groups, the business and development communities, tax-exempt properties and others such as conservation authorities. They will represent the views of their organization or sector and provide input on how the City's stormwater management program will be funded in the future.

Q – What is the City's stormwater management program comprised of?

A – The City plans and controls the quality and quantity of runoff from rain and melted snow through its stormwater program. The stormwater infrastructure includes storm sewers, catch basins, stormwater management ponds, bridges and culverts. The program also supports activities such as flood prevention, maintenance of water quality, reduction of downstream erosion, environmental compliance, emergency response and clean-up, and the enforcement of bylaws. Together, the infrastructure and supporting activities make up the stormwater management program.

Q – How does the City's stormwater management program benefit residents?

A – By controlling the quality and quantity of stormwater reaching our streams and rivers, the City's stormwater management system protects the health and safety of the public and the environment.

Q – What are the Stormwater Funding Options being considered as part of the study?

A – The City's consultant AECOM has been asked to look at funding options beyond property taxes and development charges. Some of the alternative funding options being considered will include dedicated tax levies and stormwater user fees.

Q – How will residents be engaged in this study?

A – Various stakeholders will be invited to participate on a Stormwater Financing Stakeholder Group including businesses, institutions, residents and community groups. The City will engage the general public by hosting public information centres open to all.

Q – What will happen at the end of the study?

A – The consultant will identify an alternative funding mechanism to support the City's stormwater management program, and provide feedback from the Stormwater Financing Stakeholder Group and members of the public. Staff will determine a preferred funding approach and make its recommendation to Council in October 2012.

Q – Will this mean a tax increase to the average resident?

A – It is too early in the process to determine whether there will be a financial impact on residents. All findings as a result of the Stormwater Financing Study will come before City Council as a recommendation.

Q – When will the findings of the study be implemented?

A – When the study is complete, staff will report back to General Committee in October 2012 with its implementation recommendations.