

Replacement, Rehabilitation or Relocation of the Aldershot Creek Wastewater Main: Public Information Centre Video – Text description

The following provides a text version of the audio that is included in the video.

Slide 1 (Introduction)

Hello and welcome to the Public Information Centre, or “PIC” for short, for the Replacement, Rehabilitation, or Relocation of the Aldershot Creek Wastewater Main Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study (MCEA), which we will refer to as “the study” in these videos.

Thank you for taking the time to watch this presentation and learn more about this study! Your input is valuable to us.

Slide 2 (Purpose of the Public Information Centre)

Halton Region is undertaking a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) study to assess alternative options for the replacement, rehabilitation, or relocation of the Aldershot Creek wastewater main in the City of Burlington.

The purpose of this PIC virtual consultation is to present the work completed to date including:

- the study process;
- problem and opportunity being considered for this study;
- existing conditions and key project requirements;
- alternative servicing options;
- evaluation criteria and process;
- recommended preferred solution; and
- next steps in the MCEA process.

If you would like to learn more about the study, please visit the Municipal Class Environmental Assessments page on **halton.ca**.

We invite you to share your comments and questions about the information presented through the online comment form on the consultation webpage, or by contacting the Halton Region Project Manager Mark Bajor at 905-825-6000 ext. 7921 or mark.bajor@halton.ca.

Slide 3 (About the Study)

The study area, as shown on the map, consists of the Aldershot High School, and a mix of single residential dwellings, townhomes, and apartment/condominium properties.

The purpose of the study is to identify and address known issues with the existing wastewater main along the West Aldershot Creek.

Slide 4 (Timeline and Process)

The MCEA Planning and Design process is used by municipalities to ensure that the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act* are met when undertaking capital works projects.

This study is being carried out as a **Schedule B** undertaking and will follow Phases 1, 2, and 5 as presented in the flow chart.

Phase 1 of the study identified problems and opportunities.

Currently we are nearing the end of Phase 2, with this presentation summarizing works completed to date, including providing project background, an overview of options and the evaluation criteria used to identify the preliminary preferred option. At this PIC, we are presenting our findings of Phase 2 and asking for public feedback.

Following this PIC, the preliminary preferred option will be confirmed and the Project File Report (PFR) will be prepared. The report will document the entire decision-making process, as well as the consultation records. We anticipate that it will be available for public review in Spring or early Summer 2023.

Slide 5 (Problem and Opportunity)

The deficiencies within the study area can be summarized by the following statements.

The existing wastewater main requires replacement due to age. It is also threatened by severe erosion within the West Aldershot Creek valley, including the sewer section crossing the creek and several maintenance holes which are located within the creek banks and bed.

Due to these identified problems, Halton Region has initiated a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) study to develop and evaluate options for replacement of the West Aldershot Creek wastewater main. Servicing options will accommodate capacity needs, improve accessibility for Regional Operations staff to complete maintenance and repair works, and reduce the environmental impacts on the West Aldershot Creek corridor. The options will also consider property impacts and requirements, alignment, and coordination with ongoing and future capital projects in the proximity of Fairwood Place West and North Shore Boulevard, and financial implications of constructing and maintaining the system.

Slide 6 (Existing Conditions – Wastewater Infrastructure)

This map shows all of the existing wastewater infrastructure within the study area. The wastewater main highlighted in yellow is the section that needs to be replaced and is the focus of this study. The wastewater main, built in 1961, is located along the West Aldershot Creek corridor, between Fairwood Place West and North Shore Boulevard and conveys flows to the LaSalle Park Wastewater Pump Station (WWPS).

Slide 7 (Key Project Requirements)

Several key issues and considerations guided the development and evaluation of options. The final option selected must meet the following requirements, as a minimum:

- accommodate future capacity requirements;
- improve accessibility of wastewater infrastructure by Regional Operations staff for maintenance and repairs;
- minimize impact on the natural environment and creek corridor;
- minimize impact to Aldershot High School and surrounding community; and
- minimize construction impact, timing and cost.

To aid with our evaluation, several baseline conditions studies have been completed, including the following:

- Archaeological Assessment
- Natural Environment Assessment
- Fluvial Geomorphological Assessment
- Geotechnical Assessment

The findings and recommendations of the listed studies support the evaluation of the proposed options. The completed studies will be appended to the final Project File Report, which will be filed publicly.

The Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment was completed in April 2022, in order to gain first-hand knowledge of the geography, topography and current conditions and to evaluate and map archaeological potential of the study area. The property assessment determined that parts of the study area exhibit archaeological potential and these areas will require Stage 2 archaeological assessment, prior to any land disturbing activities. Further archaeological assessments will be completed, as required, during detailed design of the preferred option. The remainder of the study area does not retain archaeological potential and will not require further archaeological assessment.

The Natural Environment Assessment was completed in Summer 2022, with a focus on documenting any key ecological considerations and their implications for the Aldershot Creek wastewater main. No provincially or locally significant wetlands, Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) or Environmentally Significant Areas (ESA) were identified within or immediately adjacent to the study area. There is minor potential to impact Species at Risk (SAR) including SAR bat species and one American Chestnut Tree. The extent of impact to the natural environment of each option was considered during the evaluation process. Mitigation measures to protect SAR and minimize impacts to the natural environment will be included in the final Project File Report and carried to detailed design and construction of the preferred option.

Findings of the Fluvial Geomorphological Assessment and Geotechnical Assessment did not impact the development and evaluation of servicing options; therefore, have not been summarized in this presentation.

Slide 8 (Related Studies and Adjacent Projects)

Two key projects were considered by the project team during the development and evaluation of options due to their significance to the Aldershot wastewater main study area.

In 2019, the City of Burlington completed the West Aldershot Creek Erosion Control MCEA study to identify stabilization and restoration alternatives for West Aldershot Creek to address the ongoing excessive erosion in the creek which presented a risk to public and private property, municipal infrastructure, and aquatic and riparian habitats. The preferred solution of that MCEA study will improve the creek conditions and mitigate erosion in the long-term.

In Spring 2021, the City of Burlington agreed to put the creek rehabilitation works on hold until Halton Region completed this study to determine the preferred servicing option for the wastewater main within the creek corridor. Based on the outcome of this study, the creek rehabilitation design will be updated, and the City and Region will work to coordinate and consolidate the construction and restoration works within the creek valley to minimize impacts to the residents and the natural environment.

The Region's Sewer Upsizing project aims to address system capacity issues related to anticipated future developments surrounding the study area. An upgrade of the wastewater infrastructure along Fairwood Place, from Hendrie Avenue to North Shore Boulevard and along North Shore Boulevard to LaSalle Park Wastewater Pump Station (WWPS), is planned to address capacity issues.

Coordination and consolidation (if feasible) between the planned sewer upsizing and the Aldershot wastewater main improvements were considered during this study.

Slide 9 (Options)

Based on the Problem and Opportunity Statement and key project requirements, proposed servicing options for the Aldershot Creek wastewater main include:

- Option 1 – Do nothing
- Option 2 – Re-routing of Sewers to the Eastern Side of the Creek
- Option 3 – Two Sewer Systems and Pumping Station
- Option 4 – Two Sewer Systems and Gravity Sewers
- Option 5 – Re-routing of Sewers to the Eastern Side of the Creek via Trenchless Crossing
- Option 6 – Two Sewer Systems and Gravity Sewers with Townhouse Complex Flows to East
- Option 7 – Replace the Existing Wastewater Main along a Similar Alignment including Trenchless Creek Crossing

For all options, where applicable, the wastewater main will be sized to accommodate for future growth and eliminate or incorporate the sewer upsizing on Fairwood Place and North Shore Boulevard.

Preliminary screening of each option resulted in the elimination of Options 1, 3 and 4.

The *Environmental Assessment Act* requires the consideration of the 'Do Nothing' option. This option does not address any of the existing issues and therefore was screened out.

From our consultation with the Fairwood Place Condominium Boards, Option 3 was determined not to be a viable solution. For this option to be feasible, the Condominium Boards would need to assume ownership, operation and maintenance responsibilities for a new wastewater pumping station, which they expressed they do not have a desire to do.

Option 4 was also eliminated. From early analysis, this option consists of long and very deep wastewater mains requiring a very high capital cost and significant disruption to the community during construction.

Slide 10 (Option 2: Re-routing of Sewers to the Eastern Side of the Creek)

Option 2 will replace the existing wastewater main with a new wastewater main conveying flows from Fairwood Place, behind the Fairwood Place Townhouses, crossing to the east side of the creek near Aldershot High School parking lot, south along Aldershot High School field, to the LaSalle Park Wastewater Pump Station (WWPS).

Option 2 will remove the existing wastewater infrastructure from the creek bed and banks and accommodate capacity requirements for future growth as the planned upsizing of the wastewater main will be incorporated into the infrastructure of this option.

New permanent easements (a right to use a portion of a property of another without possessing it) will be required from the Fairwood Place Townhouses, Halton District School Board, and City of Burlington; existing easements along the west side of Aldershot Creek associated with the existing wastewater main may be dissolved.

This option would have minimal impact on the local community, with the Fairwood Townhouses and Aldershot High School experiencing the majority of construction impacts.

Slide 11 (Option 5: Re-routing of Sewers to the Eastern Side of the Creek via Trenchless Crossing)

Option 5 will replace the existing wastewater main with a new wastewater main conveying flows from Fairwood Place to the LaSalle Park Wastewater Pump Station (WWPS) via crossing of the Aldershot Creek and along the Aldershot High School field.

Option 5 will accommodate capacity requirements for future growth as the planned upsizing of the wastewater main will be incorporated into the infrastructure of this option.

New permanent easements will be required from Halton District School Board and City of Burlington; existing easements along the west side of Aldershot Creek associated with the existing wastewater main may be dissolved.

This option will remove the at-risk wastewater infrastructure from the creek bed and banks; with the new creek crossing being designed with adequate cover and protection.

This option would have minimal impact on the local community, with Aldershot High School experiencing the majority of construction impacts.

Slide 12 (Option 6: Two Sewer System and Gravity Sewers with Townhouse Complex Flows to East)

Option 6 will involve the separation of the existing wastewater system, maintaining wastewater flows on the east and west side of Aldershot Creek. On the west side, a new wastewater main will convey flows on Fairwood Place and North Shore Boulevard to the LaSalle Park Wastewater Pump Station (WWPS). On the east side, flows from the Townhouse complex will be conveyed to a new wastewater main along Aldershot High School field to LaSalle Park Wastewater Pump Station (WWPS).

This option will accommodate capacity requirements for future growth through the separation of flows and upsizing of the wastewater main. It will also remove the existing wastewater infrastructure from the Aldershot Creek bed and banks.

New permanent easements would be required from Halton District School Board and the City of Burlington; portions of the existing easements along the west side of Aldershot Creek associated with the existing wastewater main may be dissolved.

This option would have a significant impact on the community during construction due to the construction along Fairwood Place and North Shore Boulevard.

Slide 13 (Option 7: Replace the Existing Wastewater Main along a Similar Alignment including Trenchless Creek Crossing)

Option 7 will replace the existing wastewater main with a new wastewater main conveying flows along Aldershot Creek in a similar location as the existing wastewater main but removed from the creek bed and banks.

This option will accommodate capacity requirements for future growth through the upsizing of the wastewater main. It will remove the existing at-risk wastewater infrastructure from the Aldershot Creek bed and banks and the new creek crossing will be designed with adequate cover and protection.

No new permanent easements would be required as all new infrastructure would be within the existing easements.

This option would have minimal impact on the local community, with Aldershot High School experiencing the majority of construction impacts.

Slide 14 (Evaluation Criteria)

As part of the MCEA process, the developed options were evaluated against five categories and respective criteria, with each criterion assuming an equal weighting of five percent to determine the preliminary preferred solution for the study.

The five categories include Natural Environment, Socio-cultural Environment, Legal and Jurisdictional Environment, Technical and Operational Environment, and Economic Environment. The considered criteria are provided in the table along with the resulting weighting of each category.

Slide 15 (Evaluating the Options)

A summary of the evaluation results can be seen on this slide.

Option 7 was determined to be the most preferred when considering the five categories and associated criteria. Option 7 has the least amount of impact on the natural environment and community and requires no new permanent easements. It has a new creek crossing, which will be designed to meet Conservation Halton requirements, and it has the lowest capital cost of all options considered.

Option 5 was more preferred than Options 2 and 6, but slightly less preferred than Option 7 due to the higher capital and maintenance costs. It has a low impact on the natural environment and community compared to Options 2 and 6. It has a new creek crossing which meets Conservation Halton design requirements.

Option 6 was moderately preferred. It will have a lower capital cost compared to Options 2 and 5. However, it will have the greatest impact on the community during construction due to significant road closures and detours required along Fairwood Place and North Shore Boulevard.

Option 2 is the least preferred as it has the greatest impact on the existing vegetation and natural environment. It is also the most expensive option and will be disruptive to the Townhouse complex and Aldershot High School during construction.

The full detailed evaluation matrix will be included in the final Project File Report.

Slide 16 (Preliminary Preferred Option)

Based on the evaluation process, Option 7 – Replace the Existing Wastewater Main along a Similar Alignment including Trenchless Creek Crossing has been identified as the preliminary preferred option.

Option 7 was determined to be the most preferred from the evaluation of options with key considerations including:

- It accommodates capacity requirements.
- It has minimal impact to the community.
- It has minor impact on existing vegetation and need for tree removal.
- It will remove at-risk wastewater infrastructure from the sensitive creek corridor.

Mitigation of impacts due to the creek crossing and wastewater main installation will be identified in the Project File Report for this study.

Slide 17 (Next Steps)

Following this PIC, the project team will:

- review and respond to questions and comments received through this PIC;
- make refinements to the preferred option (as needed) based on feedback received;
- undertake additional design review with regulatory agencies and directly affected stakeholders as needed;

- prepare the conceptual design of the preferred option and identify mitigation measures and considerations for detailed design;
- document the MCEA study process, including all supporting technical studies, in the Project File Report (PFR) (Spring/Summer 2023); and
- file the PFR with the Notice of Study Completion for 30-day public review.

We encourage you to submit any comments or questions to the project team by April 20, 2023. Please use the comment form on the PIC webpage or reach out to the Halton Region Project Manager Mark Bajor at 905-825-6000, ext. 7921 or mark.bajor@halton.ca to provide your feedback.

Thank you for watching this video presentation and your interest in the Replacement, Rehabilitation or Relocation of the Aldershot Creek Wastewater Main MCEA Study! We appreciate your time and interest in the study.