



TOWN OF
HALTON HILLS
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REPORT

TO: Mayor Lawlor and Members of Council

FROM: Steven Ziegler, Senior Project Engineer

DATE: August 25, 2025

REPORT NO.: TPW-2025-018

SUBJECT: Halton Hills Stormwater Master Plan – Results and Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. TPW-2025-018, dated August 25, 2025, regarding the Halton Hills Stormwater Master Plan – Results and Recommendations, be received;

AND FURTHER THAT Council endorse the attached Halton Hills Stormwater Master Plan.

AND FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to develop an implementation strategy based on the recommendations of the Stormwater Master Plan based on the Town's Long-Range Financial Plan, 10-year capital forecast and resource availability.

AND FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to further evaluate the feasibility and scope of undertaking a SWM Financing Study.

AND FURTHER THAT Future capital projects and resource requirements be submitted for Council consideration as part of future year budget processes.

KEY POINTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- The purpose of this report is to share with Council the Results and Recommendations of the Stormwater Master Plan.
- The Stormwater Master Plan, attached to this report as **Appendix A**, analyzes the existing stormwater management system and makes recommendations to

bring the Town's storm infrastructure up to date with current best management practices.

- A life cycle cost estimate for existing and proposed stormwater infrastructure was developed to assist with planning and budgeting for future stormwater capital and maintenance costs.
- The Stormwater Master Plan identifies critical and top priority projects, developed and costed at a conceptual level for future design advancement and implementation.
- Staff are recommending that Council endorse the Stormwater Master Plan.
- Following formal adoption of the Master Plan by Council Resolution, Staff will develop an implementation strategy for the recommendations based on the Town's Long-Range Financial Plan, 10-year capital forecast and resource availability. Recommended projects will be submitted for Council consideration as part of future year budget processes.
- Staff will further evaluate the feasibility and scope of undertaking a SWM Financing Study and may include the study for consideration as part of the 2027 budget process.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

Project History & Goals

As authorized under Council Report No. TPW-2021-0022, the Town undertook a Stormwater Master Plan in support of its long-term infrastructure planning and asset management goals. AECOM Canada Ltd. was retained to carry out the Stormwater Master Plan in accordance with the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment requirements for Master Planning under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act.

To complete this study a multiphase assessment and implementation plan development process was carried out including the following key steps:

- Condition assessment of linear storm infrastructure
- Condition assessment of stormwater management facilities and oil/grit separator units
- Flow and precipitation monitoring
- Stormwater quality monitoring
- Updates to the Town's Intensity-Duration-Frequency curves
- Development of a dual drainage model
- Identification and prioritization of upgrades and retrofits
- Life cycle cost estimates of existing and proposed infrastructure
- Review of stormwater management financing strategies
- Public and Agency consultation including four meetings with a Technical Advisory Committee and two Public Information Centres

The Master Plan's primary goal was to identify constraints and opportunities related to managing the Town's stormwater system. The study provides the Town with an understanding of how the existing stormwater management network is functioning,

identifies vulnerabilities and informs short- and long-range planning to improve its stormwater infrastructure.

The study results will assist in identifying opportunities and addressing issues before stormwater assets fail or are otherwise unable to fulfill their intended purpose.

Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Process

This Stormwater Master Plan was completed following Master Plan Approach #1 with a level of assessment that will become the basis for, and be used in support of, the future Schedule A, A+, B and C projects identified within it. Schedule B projects require the filing of the Project File for public review while Schedule C projects would have to fulfill Phases 3 and 4 of the Class EA process prior to filing an Environmental Study Report (ESR) for public review. This framework allows the Town to plan for future stormwater infrastructure improvements and can directly inform the financial planning process.

This Master Plan report ties together all components of the study and documents Phases 1 and 2 of the Class EA process. It includes a listing and description of all identified projects with applicable Class EA planning schedule (i.e., Schedule A, A+, B and C), preliminary cost estimate, and implementation timeline.

Evaluation Methodology and Criteria

Given the numerous types of deficiencies within the stormwater system and various approaches and alternatives that can be used to address these issues, remediation efforts should be prioritized to begin with the most critical, effective and cost-efficient solutions.

The following factors were applied to the identified deficiencies to short list those that are considered “critical” and require immediate attention.

1. Any location where there is a pipe in critical condition (category 4 or 5 in pipe condition assessment)
2. Any location where a manhole surcharges above ground under the 5-year event
3. Any location where there is significant flood/spillover from the right-of-way onto private property during the 100-year storm event

By focusing on the categories above a short list of critical problem areas was identified. Weighted criteria were utilized in order to facilitate prioritization of the most effective and cost-efficient areas to focus on.

The occurrences of each type of critical problem were overlayed on a map and discrete project areas were delineated and given project identification numbers. After scoring of all the projects, AECOM identified the fifteen highest priority projects for further consideration. The details of each project are described in the Stormwater Master Plan.

Next Steps

AECOM Canada Ltd. has completed the Stormwater Master Plan in accordance with the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment requirements for Master Planning under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act. Accordingly, Staff are recommending that Council endorse the attached Halton Hills Stormwater Master Plan.

The Town's Consultant, AECOM Canada Ltd., has recommended a near-term prioritized program to support strategic implementation of the improvements outlined in the Stormwater Master Plan document.

Following formal adoption of the Master Plan by Council Resolution, Staff will develop an implementation strategy for the recommendations based on the Town's Long-Range Financial Plan, 10-year capital forecast and resource availability. Recommended projects will be submitted for Council consideration as part of future year budget processes.

To support the strategic implementation of the improvements identified, the Stormwater Master Plan recommended that consideration be given to undertaking a SWM Financing Study. This study would include a review and evaluation of potential funding options (tax levies, development related charges, user fees, other grants/partnerships etc.) to reduce the projected funding gap. It is recommended that staff will further evaluate the feasibility and scope of the proposed study in 2025/2026 and may include the study for consideration as part of the 2027 budget process.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This report identifies infrastructure and asset management as one of the Town's Strategic priorities.

RELATIONSHIP TO CLIMATE CHANGE:

This report impacts and/or helps address climate change and the Town's resiliency through climate adaptation.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Public Engagement has been conducted as follows:

The project was initiated with a Public Notice of Study Commencement, first issued on October 21, 2021, as well as circulation to appropriate stakeholders including Provincial and Federal agencies.

Consultation was undertaken with representatives from various Town departments and other stakeholders including key agencies such as Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), Conservation Authorities, and Indigenous Communities. The Master Plan report reflects relevant comments received through the consultation process, and a comprehensive Public Consultation Record is included in the Master Plan Report.

A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was also formed, comprised of experts from the following agencies.

- Halton Region

- Conservation Halton
- Credit Valley Conservation
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- Ministry of Transportation
- Railway (CP/CN/Metrolinx)
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks
- Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- Town of Milton

Comments from the TAC were received and addressed during TAC meetings where possible or following the meetings as needed.

Furthermore, two Public Information Centres were held virtually. The PICs comprised of a narrated slide presentation providing an overview of the findings to date and was uploaded to the Town's "Let's Talk Halton Hills" public engagement platform.

The "Let's Talk Halton Hills" project website was used to garner input related to drainage concerns, update the public about upcoming events and share project outputs. Following these PICs, numerous comments and questions were received and responded to accordingly. The project team maintained a stakeholder database to ensure that groups who wanted to stay in touch were tracked and communication was coordinated in a uniform manner.

A Public Notice advising of an optional 30-day Public Review Period was issued on September 20, 2024, and the draft Master Plan Report remained open to public feedback from September 20, 2024 to October 20, 2024.

The Notice of Master Plan advising of the mandatory, final 30-day Public Review Period in compliance with Class EA requirements was issued on February 5, 2025, and the final Master Plan Report remained open to public and stakeholder feedback from February 5, 2025 to March 7, 2025.

INTERNAL CONSULTATION:

Internal consultation was undertaken formally utilizing a Steering Committee comprised of Town Staff representing numerous departments, including Engineering & Construction, Development Engineering, Transportation, Public Works, Recreation & Parks, Planning & Development, Communications, Finance, and Climate Change & Asset Management, with the objective of gathering feedback from a diverse set of perspectives.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

This report is administrative in nature and does not have any financial implications.

Reviewed and approved by,

Mike Donnelly, Director of Engineering & Construction

Bill Andrews, Commissioner of Transportation & Public Works

Chris Mills, Chief Administrative Officer