

Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Master Plan

Historical Background

The Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Master Plans (Master Plan) are iteratively developed along with GRIDS 2. When complete, they will identify the preferred Water, Wastewater and Stormwater servicing strategy for the next 28 years, ensuring that the City meets its existing servicing commitments, accommodates future growth, and supports water quality improvements in Hamilton Harbour and the City’s surrounding receiving waters.

Work on the current Master Plan is an update to the 2006 City of Hamilton Water and Wastewater Master Plan and the 2007 Stormwater Master Plan. This updated Master Plan consists of growth projections, servicing policies, design criteria, completion of public consultation, servicing strategy development and evaluation under the Municipal Engineers Association Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) Master Plan Process. The Population and Employment projection inputs are developed by the Planning & Economic Development Department (P&ED) under the GRIDS 2 process and consist of population, employment, and density within the existing (infill and intensification) areas and greenfield growth to 2051.

The City of Hamilton retained the services of GM BluePlan Engineering Limited (GMBP) partnered with Amec Foster Wheeler, DHI, and Watson and Associates (Consulting Team) through a competitive RFP procurement process to assist with developing the Master Plan. The original project scope, schedule and cost depended mainly on receiving the 2041 Population and Employment growth forecast data and estimated completion of the project within 24 months after the project kick off. However, the 2041 Population and Employment growth forecast data dissemination was delayed due to the Provincial Growth Plan Amendment, which extended the planning horizon from 2041 to 2051. This Provincial Growth Plan Amendment necessitated revisions to the original project scopes.

In 2018, the 2031 Servicing Technical Review Task Study in support of the 2019 Development Charges Program was undertaken. This study was included in the Master Plan project scope and extended the contract cost through an approved single source (Policy #11 - Non-competitive) procurement process for the consulting assignment to maintain continuity and process efficiency.

Since 2018, the Master Plan project team has provided continuous support to P&ED to evaluate the growth planning scenarios and inform Council of the comparative analysis by identifying the potential areas of opportunity and constraint within the existing built and greenfield areas in the City.

On November 4, 2022, several Provincial decisions and proposed legislative changes were announced, which include Provincial decisions on OPAs 167 and 34 (Urban Boundary Expansion), the proposed legislative changes under Bill 23 (*More Homes Built Faster Act*), and the removal of lands from the Greenbelt Plan. The Provincial decision on OPAs 167 and 34 added approximately 2,200 ha of land to the City’s urban area. The 2022 Provincial decisions to revise the Urban Area Expansion Growth Scenario and remove lands from the Greenbelt Plan impact the Master Plan scope, schedule, and estimated cost. This cost increase includes updating the hydrologic and hydraulic model development and the infrastructure upgrade requirements analysis based on a revised growth area directed by the Province.

Report PED23084 recommends extending the existing GMBP PO #86304 by increasing the total amount up to an additional \$550,000 for the consulting assignment. Once City Council approves this expansion, staff will negotiate, enter into, and execute the increase required to effect it with the consultant by following the City’s Procurement Policy. It should be noted that this financial request does not cover effort necessary to fully evaluate and create Master Plans for multiple City-Wide growth scenarios.