

ADOPTED by Council at its meeting held December 5, 2011 [M347-2011]

/AA

Windsor, Ontario December 5, 2011

**REPORT NO. 25 of the
ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE
of its meeting held October 26, 2011**

Present: Councillor Hatfield, Chair
Councillor Payne
Councillor Sleiman
Councillor Halberstadt

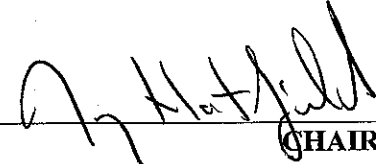
Regrets: Councillor Valentinis

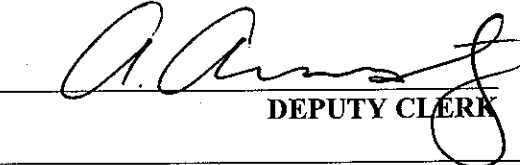
That the following recommendations of the Environment and Transportation Standing Committee **BE APPROVED:**

Moved by Councillor Payne, seconded by Councillor Sleiman,
That the report of the City Engineer dated August 29, 2011 titled "CQ77-2010 - DRIC Project - Trees & Endangered Species" **BE RECEIVED** for information.
Carried.

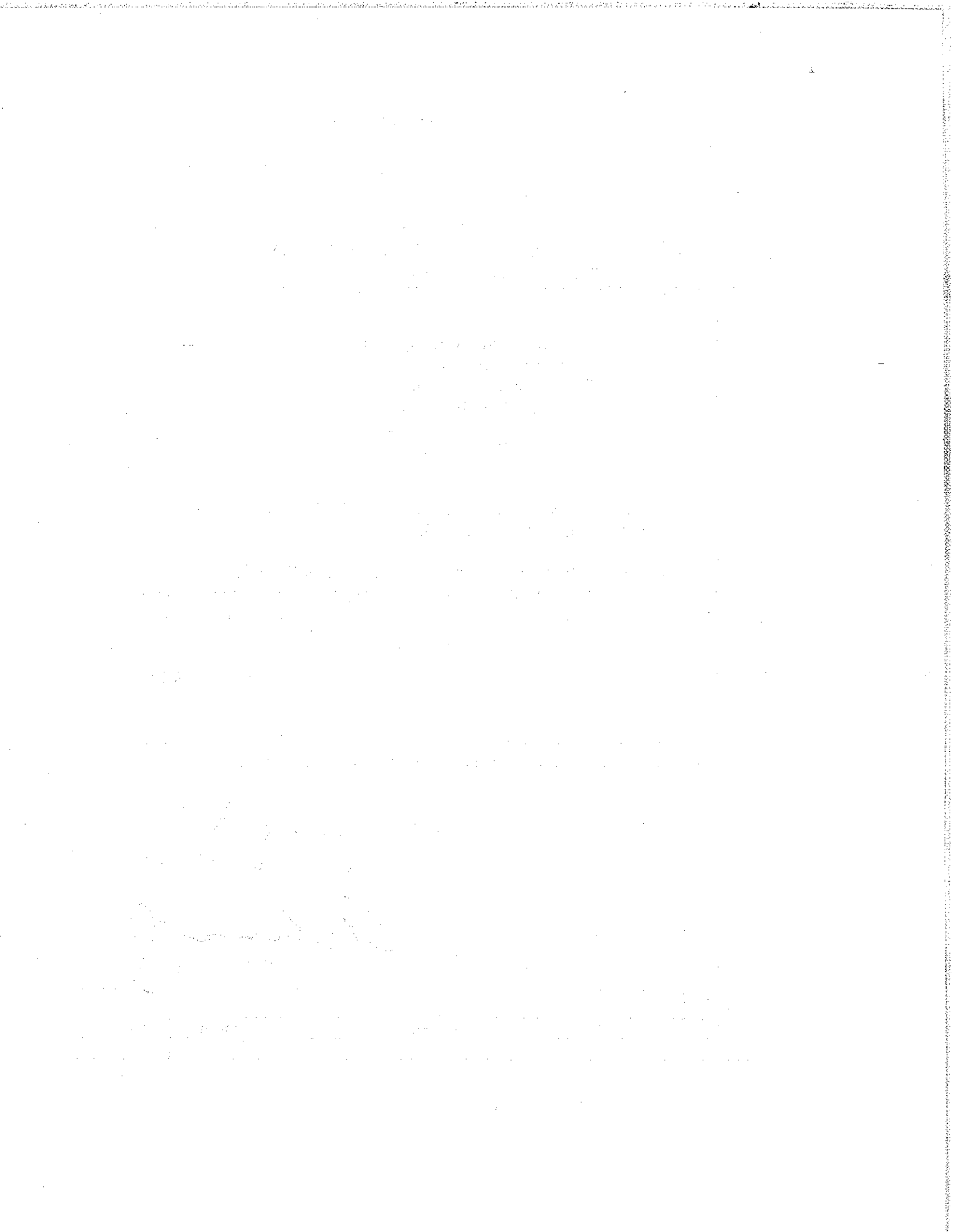
Liveline 15442, ST/8821

Clerk's Note: The report of the City Engineer dated August 29, 2011 titled "CQ77-2010 DRIC Project - Trees & Endangered Species" is attached for information.


CHAIRPERSON


DEPUTY CLERK

NOTIFICATION:				
Name	Address	Email Address	Telephone	FAX



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF WINDSOR
Environment & Transportation Standing Committee - Administrative Report



MISSION STATEMENT:

"The City of Windsor, with the involvement of its citizens, will deliver effective and responsive municipal services, and will mobilize innovative community partnerships"

LiveLink REPORT #: 15442 ST/8821	Report Date: August 29, 2011 (#3146-08/29/11:ebr)
Author's Name: Mario Sonogo, P. Eng.	Date to Standing Committee: Sept. 28, 2011
Author's Phone: 519 255 6257 ext. 6356	Classification #:
Author's E-mail: msonego@city.windsor.on.ca	

To: Environment & Transportation Standing Committee

Subject: CQ77-2010 – DRIC PROJECT – TREES & ENDANGERED SPECIES

1. RECOMMENDATION: City Wide: Ward(s): _____

To Council for information.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: N/A

2. BACKGROUND:

At the Council meeting of August 9, 2010, Councillor Hatfield asked the following:

CQ77-2010 "Asks what we are doing to rescue or salvage some of the trees that may be lost to the DRIC project and re-establishing them elsewhere within the City of Windsor."

3. DISCUSSION:

Most trees within the construction envelope cannot be relocated due to their size or location. It is noted that the maximum tree diameter that can be transplanted is 5" in diameter for most species. The emphasis on relocation will be for species that are classified as endangered or threatened, namely Dwarf Hackberry, Kentucky Coffee-tree and Hoptree.

Many of the trees are larger than 5" in diameter; others that could be are too close to surrounding utilities to safely spade and transplant. While not all of the trees that could be removed otherwise are being transplanted. The City Forester agrees and understands why this is the case and supports the work being done.

Furthermore, the Parkway Infrastructure Construction Group (PIC) is doing a vast amount of work with respect to transplanting native species, particularly with respect to species at risk. In fact, every individual that had permission to be part of the Parkway Infrastructure Construction must take "Species at Risk" training so that they are aware of the protocols with respect to such.

The species at risk are any naturally occurring plant or animal species endangered of extinction or of disappearing from the Province. Ontario has over 130,000 species, of which 200 are considered at risk.

The Endangered Species Act was passed in 2007 and came into force on June, 2008. It applies to everyone (individuals, corporations, businesses and government), and applies on both public and private lands. The Act provides for the protection of individuals and their habitat. Penalties can be up to a maximum of \$250,000 for individuals, \$1 million for corporations and imprisonment up to one year for first offenders.

A permit was issued by Ministry of Natural Resources to the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) for the Windsor-Essex Parkway project with specified requirements as to what the MTO must do to protect the species at risk.

It has been noted by many with respect to the black cloth fences that exist in different areas of the Parkway. These black cloth fences serve to:

- Protect the endangered or threatened species
- To delineate the construction site
- To act as silt barriers
- To keep people and animals from entering the construction sites

It is noted that nine (9) protected species have been identified within the Windsor-Essex Parkway corridor as follows:

Eastern Foxsnake (*Pantherophis gloydi*)
Butler's Gartersnake (*Thamnophis butleri*)
Eastern Prairie Fringed-orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*)
Dense Blazing Star (*Liatris spicata*)
Willowleaf Aster (*Var. praealtum*)
Colicroot (*Alteris farinosa*)
Dwarf Hackberry (*Celtis tenuifolia*)
Common Hoptree (*Ptelea trifoliata*)
Kentucky Coffee-Tree (*Gymnocladus dioica*)

Furthermore, there are many additional species recorded from Windsor that must also be protected under the Act such as:

Endangered/Threatened Species

- Scarlet Ammania
- American Chestnut
- Dwarf lake Iris
- Butternut
- Slender Bush-clover
- Purple Twayblade Orchid
- Pink Milkwort
- Blanding's Turtle
- Eastern Musk Turtle
- Spiny Softshell Turtle
- Five-lined Skink
- Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake
- Northern Bobwhite
- Common Nighthawk
- Chimney Swift
- Red-headed Woodpecker
- Acadian Flycatcher
- Barn Swallow
- Yellow-breasted Chat

- Bobolink
- Eastern Meadowlark
- Grey Fox

Extirpated

- Illinois Tick-trefoil (1888)
- Greater Prairie Chicken (1968)

Extinct

- Passenger Pigeon (1914)

Some of the above are only known from historic records while others are still relatively widespread in the local area. The work on the Parkway project also includes relocating endangered/threatened plants from the construction footprint to suitable sites which will provide long-term protection. Three transport trucks of material involving thousands of plants have been moved to date.

Construction areas are monitored daily for wildlife and any snakes found are moved to safe locations. There is ongoing monitoring of the health of transplanted plants and snakes and mitigation provided for unavoidable impacts.

Additional lands acquired for species protection.

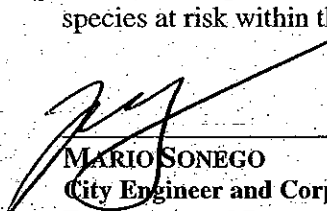
4. FINANCIAL MATTERS: N/A

5. CONSULTATIONS:

City Forester and City Naturalist

6. CONCLUSION:

The above report is in response to CQ77-2010 and to provide further information with respect to the species at risk within the Parkway project.


MARIO SONEGO
 City Engineer and Corporate Leader
 Environmental Protection and Transportation


BILL ROESEL
 City Forester


PAUL PRATT
 Naturalist

MS:ebr

APPENDICES:

DEPARTMENTS/OTHERS CONSULTED:

Name:
 Phone #: 519 ext.

NOTIFICATION :

Name	Address	Email Address	Telephone	FAX

