REGION OF OTTAWA-CARLETON REPORT
RÉGION D'OTTAWA-CARLETON RAPPORT

Our File/N/Réf. 48-95-0054
Your File/V/Réf.

DATE 8 March 2000

TO/DEST. A/Co-ordinator
Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee

FROM/EXP. Planning and Development Approvals Commissioner

SUBJECT/OBJET **LIMEBANK ROAD / RIVER ROAD**
ARMSTRONG ROAD
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
CONSULTANT APPOINTMENT

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

That the Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee and Council approve the appointment of Totten Sims Hubicki, to undertake an Environmental Assessment study for the widening of River Road, Limebank Road and Armstrong Road at a cost not to exceed $430,000 (including contingencies).

BACKGROUND

In 1997, the Region completed the Official Plan (OP) and Transportation Master Plan (TMP) in part to identify growth areas and the associated transportation network requirements. One of the arterials identified to accommodate the development in the Gloucester South Urban Centre (SUC) is Limebank Road/River Road between Hunt Club Road and Armstrong Road. The TMP has identified the need for the portion of River Road under consideration to be widened to 4 lanes by approximately 2006 and for Limebank Road to be widened to 4 lanes beyond 2006. However, because the two facilities will combine to be the major north/south link to the Gloucester SUC it is appropriate to examine the alignment of both River Road and Limebank Road together. This practice follows the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act* where it is encouraged not to piece meal projects from a planning context.

To date, there has been significant construction and development of different land uses in the Gloucester SUC. The lands under consideration are bounded by Leitrim Road to the north, Armstrong Road to the south, River Road to the west and Limebank Road to the east. As development continues within

this area and to the north (between Balmoral Drive and Hunt Club Road), there will be several different land uses ranging from residential, commercial, institutional and industrial.

Through other Regional initiatives, the Strandherd/Armstrong Rideau River crossing was investigated and an EA study was completed in November 1997. The alignment of this crossing ended at Spratt Road . However, with the planned widening of Limebank Road/River Road down to Armstrong Road, it was deemed prudent to also investigate the widening of Armstrong Road between Spratt and Limebank for network continuity purposes. It is proposed that the planning work be undertaken as one EA Study since these facilities are in close proximity to each other and are interrelated, particularly at the southern limit of the study area.

In order to address the growing development issues, and to meet the timelines identified for these facilities in the TMP and Official Plan, a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Schedule C) for Limebank Road / River Road / Armstrong Road must now be initiated. Figure 1 shows the study area limits.

DISCUSSION

With the assistance of the Supply Management Division, a Request for Proposal was posted on MERX on January 25th, 2000 and closed three weeks later on February 15th, 2000. A total of 21 requests for the RFP document was registered. Four submissions from local engineering firms were received. The proposals were evaluated according to a ranking system outlined in the RFP. The Selection Committee consisting of staff from the Policy and Infrastructure Planning Division and the Supply Management Division evaluated the proposals according to the firms ability to carry out the assignment, past performance on similar assignments, proposed methodology to undertake the EA, understanding of the project, study schedule and effort, and cost. Totten Sims Hubicki (TSH) was deemed to be the most appropriate candidate as they received the highest ranking overall.

TSH have sucessfully undertaken several similar assignments throughout the Region and in proximity to the study area in the past. Their experience with projects such as the Trim Road EA Study, the design of Woodroffe Avenue Widening/Bus Lanes, and the Fallowfield Road/Rideau River Crossing has offered them the opportunity to fully understand the Region's OP, TMP and importantly, the transportation requirements for the Gloucester SUC. TSH has a full complement of technical and support staff with expertise in land use planning, transportation planning, environmental assessments, and value engineering which include bilingual members.

CONSULTATION

A thorough public consultation program is a major component of this EA Study. A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will be established to ensure that the stakeholder agencies have adequate input to the study. Public Open Houses and meeting with focus groups, residents, and developers will complement the efforts of the TAC.

COMPATIBILITY WITH REGIONAL OFFICIAL PLAN & TRANPORTATION MASTER PLAN

As previously mentioned in the Background section, the need to widen River Road, Limebank Road and Armstrong Road has been identified to properly service the growing Gloucester South Urban Committee. The TMP identifies the need for the the River Road portion between 2001 and 2006 and the Limbank Road and Armstrong Road portions beyond 2006. Planning exercises should be carried out now in preparation for the design and construction activities to follow.

EXPENDITURE JUSTIFICATION

The provincial *Enviromental Assessment Act* requires an environmental assessment be undertaken for any proposed capital project. The TMP has identified the need for widening these roadways.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND APPROVAL

	$
Approved Budget to date	3,800,000
Total Paid and Committed	2,486,522
Balance Available	1,313,478
THIS REQUEST	430,000
Balance Remaining	883,478

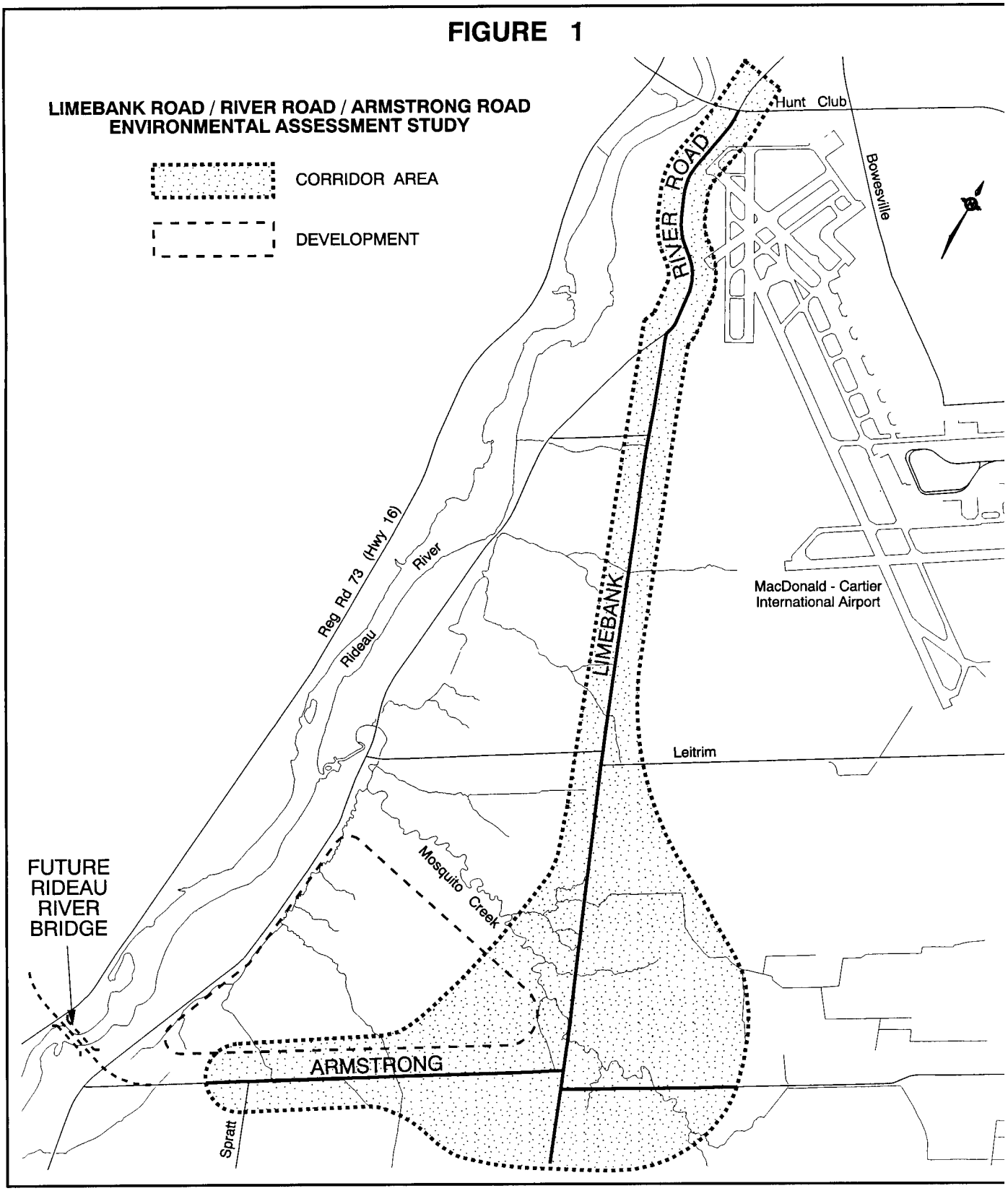
Funds are available in the 2000 Capital Budget, Account No. 900104 Regional Roads Enviromental Assessment Studies.

Approved by
Nick Tunnacliffe, MCIP, RPP

CG/

Attach: (1)

FIGURE 1


LIMEBANK ROAD / RIVER ROAD / ARMSTRONG ROAD
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STUDY
CORRIDOR AREA
DEVELOPMENT
Hunt Club
RIVER ROAD
Bowesville
Reg Rd 73 (Hwy 16)
Rideau River
LIMEBANK
MacDonald - Cartier
International Airport
Leitrim
Mosquito Creek
FUTURE
RIDEAU
RIVER
BRIDGE
ARMSTRONG
Spratt