



## **STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED with Confidential Attachment**

# 11.

### **Bridlewood Branch – Potential Capital Project**

<b>Date:</b>	June 21, 2010
<b>To:</b>	Toronto Public Library Board
<b>From:</b>	City Librarian
<b>Reason for Confidential Information:</b>	This report involves the security of the property of the Board – <i>Public Libraries Act</i> , R.S.O. 1990, Chapter P. 44, 16.1 (4) (a).

### **SUMMARY**

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The purpose of this report is to provide further information to the Toronto Public Library Board regarding a potential capital project for the Bridlewood Branch related to a development under review in the neighbourhood.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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**The City Librarian recommends that the Toronto Public Library Board:**

1. adopts the confidential recommendations in Confidential Attachment 1; and
2. authorizes the release of the information upon completion of negotiations with the developer and mall owner, and submission of recommendations to City Council.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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The financial impact is described in Attachment 1. There is no capital funding identified in the Library's ten-year capital plan for improvements at the Bridlewood Branch.

The Director, Finance & Treasurer has reviewed this financial impact statement and is in agreement with it.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

Library staff has met with City staff about a potential Section 37 contribution for the Bridlewood Branch which may have an impact on the Library's capital and operating budgets. At the May 10, 2010 Board meeting, the Board requested further information. A copy of the Status Report regarding the official plan amendment and rezoning application for the Finch Warden Area is attached.

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

Bridlewood Branch is located in Ward 39 in the Bridlewood Mall at the corner of Finch and Warden Avenues. Bridlewood Branch is a busy neighbourhood library serving a population of 40,516. The population served increased by 1.3% from 2001 to 2006. Its catchment area stretches from Huntingwood Drive to the south to McNicoll Avenue to the north, Victoria Park Avenue to the west and Kennedy Road to the east. In 2009, Bridlewood Branch had 293,900 visits and circulated 438,694 items, ranking third highest in performance among 79 neighbourhood branches. In 2009, self-service check-out was introduced and in 2010 the branch open hours increased from 58.5 to 65.5 hours over six days a week. The Board's Doors Wide Open plan includes the addition of Sunday service at Bridlewood. The branch is often filled to capacity. There are seven Internet workstations in the branch as well as wireless Internet access. The seating capacity is 38 and the meeting room accommodates 58 occupants.

Bridlewood is located in the Steeles L'Amoreaux Priority Neighbourhood. In addition, the branch serves a large multicultural community and many newcomers settle in the branch's catchment area. To respond to these needs, the branch offers many programs in partnership with agencies such as the Library Settlement Partnership program, Service Canada and English as a Second Language classes. The meeting room is used to its capacity for these programs.

The branch has a collection of approximately 60,000 items in many formats, including books, magazines, CDs, DVDs and audio books. There is material in English and language collections in Arabic, Armenian, Chinese, Gujarati, Hindi, Tamil and Urdu. In addition, Bridlewood has adult literacy material, career information, English as a Second Language, language learning kits, pedometer lending and large print collections.

Bridlewood Branch has been in the current location in the Bridlewood Mall since 1992 and occupies a space of 5,445 sq. ft. The lease was renewed in 2007 for a five-year term from October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2012. Prior to renewal of the lease, city-owned properties within the catchment area were reviewed as potential sites for this branch, but a suitable site was not found and the Library did not have capital funding to relocate and construct a new branch.

At 5,445 sq. ft., Bridlewood Branch falls well below the identified size of 10,000 to 15,000 square feet for neighbourhood library services. With the continued heavy use and need for more services, the branch is pressed to keep pace with the demand. Currently there are no capital plans for renovation and expansion of this well used library. To meet the demands of the existing residents and the increase in residents from the proposed nearby developments, Bridlewood Branch needs to be expanded to house larger collections, more computer workstations and study spaces, zoned areas for children, youth and adults and improved meeting and program spaces. Access to Section 37 contributions that may be negotiated as a result of development would be well used to support an expansion of Bridlewood Branch to 15,000 square feet.

Through public consultations, the need for an expanded and improved library branch which includes multifunctional community meeting space has been identified as a priority by the local community and councillors.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Jane Pyper  
City Librarian

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment 1: Confidential Information
- Attachment 2: Finch Warden Area Revitalization Study & 2900 Warden Avenue  
Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment – Status Report