

### TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY 2009-2013 CAPITAL BUDGET AND PLAN

#### DESCRIPTION AND STATUS OF 2009 PROJECTS

##### **Bloor/Gladstone District Library Renovation & Expansion**

This project is comprised of a state of good repair renovation component and an expansion component. Renovation to the existing 11,397 sq. ft. space and a 9,230 sq. ft. expansion will almost double the size of the library. The expansion component of the project will address community demands (this branch serves a population of 186,000), including the purchase of 10,000 additional collection items, a user education computer centre, wireless high speed internet access and installation of elevators. The functionality of the branch will be improved through integration of services within the new building. The gross cost of the project is \$9.162 million. The branch closed for construction at the end of December 2006 and is expected to reopen in 2009.

##### **Dufferin/St. Clair Neighbourhood Library Renovation**

This project is for the renovation of the 11,208 sq. ft. Dufferin/St. Clair Neighbourhood Library, a listed heritage building, at a gross cost of \$3.473 million. Renovations to this building have focussed on restoring the original architecture and character of the library while addressing accessibility deficiencies and introducing new services and technology. Murals painted by Canadian artists George A. Reid and Doris McCarthy in the 1920's were uncovered and restored. Reading lounges for adults, a separate teen area, a *KidsStop* early literacy interactive area for young children, increased computer access, wifi internet access extending to a reading garden, self-service check out and a multipurpose room were designed to attract new users and to meet the growing needs of the community. The branch closed in July 2007 and will reopen in the fall of 2008.

##### **Jane/Sheppard Neighbourhood Library Relocation and Expansion**

This project is for the relocation of the library from a small, undersized 3,500 sq. ft. leased space in a mall to a 7,000 sq. ft. facility on City-owned land at 1900 Sheppard Avenue West, at a gross cost of \$2.733 million, including an outdoor reading garden, wireless high speed internet access and self-service check out. Although this co-development with Shelter Housing and Support was delayed for a number of years, it is now under construction and projected to open at the end of 2008.

##### **Thorncliffe Neighbourhood Library Renovation & Expansion**

This project is for the renovation of 5,000 sq. ft. of existing library space and an additional 5,000 sq. ft. of library space, currently used by the other partners in the facility. The Thorncliffe Neighbourhood Library is attached to the Jenner Jean Marie Community Centre and the project is in partnership with Parks, Forestry and Recreation and Children's Services. The design phase was completed in 2007. The

branch closed in December 2007 to start construction and is projected to reopen in 2009. At a gross project cost of \$2.590 million, this branch will feature a new community room, a *KidsStop* early literacy interactive area for young children, a Teen Zone, self-service check out and wireless high speed internet access.

### **Cedarbrae District Library Renovation**

This busy branch (third busiest district library) will be renovated within the existing footprint (26,200 sq. ft.). The renovation, the first since the branch opened in 1966, will include repairs to the building structure and mechanical and electrical systems, and improve accessibility. A significant redesign of floor plan layouts will improve sightlines and branch security, and revitalize public space. The planning and design phase took place in 2007 and the construction tender was issued in July 2008. The gross cost for this project is \$7.5 million and will feature an expanded User Education Centre, reading lounges, a *KidsStop* early literacy interactive area for young children, a Teen Zone, self-service check in and check out, wireless high speed internet access and specially designed outdoor community spaces.

### **Toronto Reference Library Renovation**

This project is part of the continuing revitalization and retrofit of a 31 year old, five-storied, 416,035 sq. ft. central library that serves the entire City of Toronto. The Reference Library is an architectural landmark (built in 1977), Canada's largest public research library, Canada's only public reference library and TPL's flagship branch located in the heart of the City. Revitalization of the Library will: address the needs of its service role/users; sustain its municipal and provincial mandate, national and international reputation; and be in keeping with the City's goal to revitalize public spaces and improve public service. In addition, the Reference Library contributes to the cultural life of the city.

The building structure, health and safety, mechanical, electrical and barrier-free deficiencies must be addressed. In addition, redesign and retrofit of the public service areas will consolidate comprehensive collections and subject-specialized "centres of excellence" to improve customer service. Construction of the Event Space is expected to be completed in mid 2009. The estimated renovation cost of \$33 million will be funded through a blend of public and private financing consisting of contributions from the City, the Province and public donations raised through a capital campaign initiated by the TPL Foundation. This budget submission only includes the City portion of funding. The 2009 gross funding of \$3.3 million will continue the first floor renovations, complete the construction of the event space and start renovations of the upper floors.

### **Multi-branch Minor Renovation Program**

This state of good repair minor renovation project is an effective way of keeping some branches functional until a major renovation can be funded. The total request for the multi-branch program is \$1.1 million gross in 2009, which includes renovations to roofing, building systems (HVAC, elevator, fire alarm, security), flooring and replacement of shelving and furnishings at branches city-wide. Also, the 2009 program includes a combination of renovations to flooring, shelving and public area furnishings at three branches (Palmerston, Annette Street and Wychwood), which will respond to health and safety needs and renew the functionality of these branches.

## **Virtual Branch Services**

In order to meet the needs and expectations of Torontonians, the Library must make accessibility and availability of its web services a priority. In addition to making functional improvements to existing services, the Library needs to maintain the infrastructure that ensures access to them. This includes progressive improvements to disk capacity for digitized connections. The \$1.0 million gross cost of this project will allow the Library to integrate its recently upgraded library system (February 2008) and a suite of other existing virtual services into a unified, user-centred virtual channel of service delivery. This includes significant improvements to searching and access to Library physical and electronic collections (and therefore improved self service capabilities), increased capacity for digitizing and presenting our unique collections as well as integrating content into the online sites and services that Torontonians use in their daily live. This will be delivered through the traditional web browser and in addition, key services will be available through hand-held devices.

## **Technology Asset Management Program**

TPL operates its own computing center and data network which supports both public library information services and administrative and support services. TPL is responsible for the acquisition, maintenance and replacement of all Information Technology hardware and software owned by the Library. The Technology Asset Management Program (TAMP) will provide for the replacement of existing hardware and software, excluding major systems. This state of good repair project at a gross cost of \$3.241 million in 2009 will allow TPL to replace PCs, monitors, printers, servers, data switches, components of the storage area network and various related equipment and software.

## **Brentwood District Library Reconstruction**

This renovation project includes a partial demolition and reconstruction of this 52 year old building, which will result in approximately 17,500 sq. ft. of floor space for the branch to respond to the needs of existing and increased population from major residential development taking place west of the library. The renovation will address structural and mechanical issues; provide barrier free access on all floors including access to washrooms and the community room, and the installation of an elevator. This branch will feature a Computer Learning Centre, a *KidsStop* early literacy interactive area for young children, a Teen Zone, express check-out and wireless high speed internet access. The planning and design phase was undertaken in 2008 and construction is planned for 2009. The gross cost for the project is \$7.956 million.

## **Railway Lands (Waterfront West) Neighbourhood Library Construction**

Toronto Public Library and Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) are in negotiations to include a 15,000 sq. ft. neighbourhood library on Block 36 of the Railway Lands Development, to serve a rapidly growing community. The project will include a collection of 50,000 items, computers with internet access, open floor space, barrier free access, study and multipurpose programming space, gallery/exhibit space, self-service check in and check out and wireless high speed internet access. The design stage is to start in 2009, with a total project budget of \$7.420 million, funded entirely by Section 37 and development charges. The branch is expected to be completed in 2011.

## **Scarborough Centre Neighbourhood Library Construction**

This project consists of the construction of a 15,000 sq. ft. library to serve the growing east-end Scarborough community with a projected population of 30,000 to 40,000 residents. The project will have a gross cost of \$8.2 million and will include a collection of 50,000 items, computers with internet access, an open floor plan, barrier free access, study and multipurpose programming space, self-service check in and check out and wireless high speed internet access. The design stage is to start in 2009 and project completion is expected to take place in 2012.

### **St. Lawrence Branch Relocation and Expansion**

This project entails the construction of a 25,000 sq. ft. district library to relocate the existing St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Library to 281 Front Street East to serve the St. Lawrence, West Donlands and East Bayfront communities with a projected population increase of 26,000 residents. The project will include a collection of 100,000 items, computers with internet access, open floor space, barrier free access, study and multipurpose programming space, gallery/exhibit space, focus areas for teens, children and adults, self service check-in and check-out, ultra-broadband intelligent communications infrastructure and wireless high speed internet access. The design stage of this \$15 million project is to start in 2009 and the project is expected to be completed in 2014.

### **Ellesmere Reconstruction - Materials Sorting and Distribution Hub**

The demolition and reconstruction of a 20,400 sq. ft. building constructed in 1968 to an expanded footprint of 35,000 sq. ft. designed and configured to accommodate an automated material sorting system, to support the sorting and distribution of branch collections and materials and consolidate the two existing delivery hubs. This facility currently provides operational space for Facilities Operations, Messenger Services, IT Training and Home Library Services. Current messenger service infrastructure and building design limitations can no longer efficiently support the demand for collections and materials to be sorted and transported to library branches. An automated central sorting station would reduce the risk of worker injury, reduce the physical effort and time required to sort materials in the branches as well as at the station, and result in materials getting onto the shelves faster. In addition, consolidation of the two existing delivery hubs would result in greater efficiency and improved customer service. The gross cost of this project is \$14.8 million. The planning phase of this project is to start in 2009 with completion in 2015.

### **Self Service (RFID): Plan for Extending Branch Open Hours**

Self service check-out has been successfully introduced at six Toronto Public Library branches, resulting in improved work flow, a healthier work environment, ability to handle increasing transaction loads with existing staff resources, increased branch open hours and improved customer service. The introduction of this technology enables the Library to expand branch open hours with existing staff and positions the library to take advantage of future efficiencies through Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology, such as automated check-in. In January 2006 the Library Board endorsed “The Best Thing a Library Can Be Is Open”, a plan to increase the open hours in library branches across the City by 25% at the end of a 3-year implementation period. If the plan was funded completely from the operating budget, a \$17.4 million funding increase would be required which represents an 11% budget increase. Instead, to reduce the overall cost of the plan, a two-pronged approach was devised: (1) request capital funding totaling \$6.6 million to implement self-service in 36 of the largest and busiest branches to offset the annual operating cost of the open hours plan by \$3.9 million; and (2) request operating budget funding totaling \$13.5 million for additional staff, which represents a 9% budget

increase. The implementation is being phased-in over three years and the capital funding being requested to implement the plan is \$2.2 million each year over 2009 to 2010. The three year capital funding would allow the installation of self-service check out technology at North York Central Library, 13 district branches and 22 neighbourhood branches.

### **Malvern District Library Expansion**

This \$2.250 million project is one of the projects participating in the 2009 Partnership Opportunity Legacy (POL) funding. Malvern Library is adjacent to a busy community recreation centre in the north-east sector of the City of Toronto, serving a population of approximately 150,000 in one of the City's designated Priority Neighbourhoods. The project consists of a 3,770 sq. ft. expansion of the branch for a ProTech Media Centre/Youth Hub and a 13,650 sq. ft. outdoor plaza with a reading garden and staging for all year use for cultural and community events.

### **Kennedy / Eglinton Library Expansion**

The Kennedy / Eglinton Branch is a storefront library in a strip mall fronting on Eglinton Avenue, located in one of the City's designated Priority Neighbourhoods. Partly funded from the POL 2008 funding, the \$0.950 million expansion of the 3,854 sq. ft. library into adjacent vacant restaurant space would provide an additional 2,628 sq. ft. at street level, allowing the Library to expand the number of computers, provide gathering spaces for teens and children, a larger study area and improved programming space. The branch is well used, serving a population of 25,000, predominately young families with school-aged children. The branch has an active outreach function, working with Second Base Youth Shelter and other community agencies. They have also sponsored a series of programs this past year with the Ontario Early Years Centre. However, the small space limits the Library's ability to provide the depth and breadth of programs needed in the local community, particularly for youth. The enhanced facility will improve the Library's ability to engage in partnership opportunities with other neighbourhood agencies. This project began in 2008 and is expected to be completed in 2009.