

Committee of the Whole (1) Report

DATE: Tuesday, June 7, 2022

WARD(S): ALL

**TITLE: REGION OF YORK MUNICIPAL STREETSCAPE PARTNERSHIP
PROGRAM UPDATE**

FROM:

Zoran Postic, Deputy City Manager, Public Works

Haiqing Xu, Deputy City Manager, Planning and Growth Management

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To provide an update on the streetscape projects that are built and underway as part of the York Region Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program (MSPP) and to seek Council authorization to enter into agreements with York Region in accordance with the MSPP.

Report Highlights

- The York Region Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program (MSPP) assists in advancing projects identified by local municipalities through cost-sharing of streetscape infrastructure to enhance community aesthetics, create safe enjoyable spaces, and promote local economic vitality.
- The City has received funding approval for four (4) streetscape infrastructure projects in 2021 that require timely execution of the maintenance agreements to ensure that the City's approved capital activities can benefit from the funding provided by the Region.
- Delegating authority to the Deputy City Manager of Public Works for the execution of all MSPP maintenance agreements is necessary to facilitate a more seamless process and to ensure the City can continue to leverage these intergovernmental funding opportunities to support identified Council priorities and plans.

Recommendations

1. THAT the Region of York Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program (MSPP) Update BE RECEIVED; and
2. THAT The Deputy City Manager (DCM) of Public Works be authorized to execute maintenance agreements with the Region of York on behalf of the City of Vaughan, in a form satisfactory to Legal Services, in accordance with the Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program.

The recommendation contained in this report is to delegate authority to the Deputy City Manager of Public Works to execute maintenance agreements on behalf of the City of Vaughan with the Region of York as per the York Region Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program. This delegation would result in improved efficiency in processing existing and future MSPP applications and expediting funding approvals.

Background

Since the inception of the Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program (MSPP) in 2006, York Region Council has committed \$1 M annually to support locally initiated streetscape design enhancements within the Region's right-of way through cost sharing. This cost-sharing program provides local municipalities with partnership funding that supports the Region's priorities for vibrant and healthy communities. Projects are eligible for funding at 50% of eligible project costs if they are completed with a Region Capital Project, and at 33% for eligible costs on City initiated projects that demonstrate significant benefit to the community.

The MSPP benefits local municipalities by assisting in advancing projects identified by local municipalities through their capital infrastructure improvement programs. The City of Vaughan has successfully leveraged the program to implement streetscape infrastructure to create distinctive street character through the comprehensive and detailed design of medians, boulevards, lighting, tree planting, street furniture, and other related elements that contribute to street users' safety and comfort. Successful implementation of these partnership projects include:

- 2008, Maple Community; Major Mackenzie Dr – Melville to McNaughton, Keel to Peter Rupert
- 2010, Maple Community; Keele Street at Fieldgate, Kelly Place, Masters to McNaughton
- 2012, Maple Community; Major Mackenzie Dr –Keel to Peter Rupert Enhanced Lighting
- 2015, VMC; Highway 7 – Edgeley to Costa
- 2015, Concord Community; Highway 7– Keele to Bowes
- 2018, Thornhill Community; Centre Street – Dufferin to Bathurst
- 2018, Kleinburg Community; Islington Ave and Major Mackenzie Dr Intersection

Funding eligibility requires that all applications submit a signed maintenance agreement to ensure clear ownership so that any enhanced infrastructure delivered through these Programs is appropriately maintained. The City has not been able to complete the maintenance agreements for approved MSPP projects as there has not been a formalized delegated signing authority established.

As such, the recommendation contained in this report is to delegate authority to the Deputy City Manager of Public Works to execute maintenance agreements on behalf of the City of Vaughan with the Region of York. This delegation would result in improved efficiency in processing existing and future MSPP applications and expediting funding approvals.

Previous Reports/Authority

[Streetscape Program - york.ca](#)

https://www.vaughan.ca/cityhall/by_laws/Bylaws/144-2018.pdf

Analysis and Options

Continuing to support the construction of streetscape improvement infrastructure promotes pedestrian activities, local economic vitality, and community wellbeing.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, increased use of the public road network through walking and cycling has elevated the importance of these investments to create active and more enjoyable streetscapes for all modes of transportation.

Four City applications were approved under the Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program in 2021 with the following funding allocations:

Municipality	Project Name	Project Cost	Regional Contribution
City of Vaughan	Major Mackenzie Drive (Highway 400-Jane Street)	\$506,848	\$253,414
City of Vaughan	Highway 7 (Edgeley-Applewood)	\$294,647	\$97,234
City of Vaughan	Major Mackenzie Drive and Civic Centre Drive	\$461,565	\$152,317
City of Vaughan	Major Mackenzie Drive and Station Street (Maple GO)	\$734,414	\$242,357
Total Regional contribution			\$745,322

These streetscape projects introduce a maintenance impact to City, in part due to the higher design standard. Maintenance impacts are summarized below:

Asset	Project #1 Major Mackenzie Drive (Highway 400-Jane Street)	Project #2 Highway 7 (Edgeley-Applewood)	Project #3 Major Mackenzie Drive and Civic Centre Drive	Project #4 Major Mackenzie Drive and Station Street (Maple GO)	Maintenance Impact
Sidewalk / Multiuse path	Unit paving: 580 sq.m	Unit paving: 748 sq.m	Unit paving: 394 sq.m	0.2 km concrete walkway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair of minor cracks and blemishes to match paving surface material • Replacement of sections/members when necessary • Sweeping, cleaning and debris removal • Removal of ice and snow • Maintain in a passable and safe condition at all times • Leveling of sections as necessary • Graffiti removal
Cycling Facility (on boulevard)	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Irrigation and Drainage Systems (Conduits, Irrigation Heads, Controllers and Valves, Sub drains)	1 unit	NA	NA	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Maintenance & Repairs - Irrigation & Drains • Drain and blow out irrigation system in late fall
Concrete Planters	NA	NA	3 Units	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair of minor cracks and blemishes in 150mm, 350mm, & 450mm planter walls to match surface material • Replacement of 150mm, 350mm, & 450 mm sections/members of concrete planter wall when necessary • Shrubs, perennials and removal of garbage/debris from within landscaped assets, such as shrubs etc.)

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean and clear out sub drains • Weeding and debris removal • Graffiti removal
Flower/Shrub Beds	172 sq.m	NA	395 sq.m	915 sq.m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shrubs, perennials, annuals • Clean and clear out sub drains • Weeding and debris removal
Site Furniture (Benches, Banners, Banner poles, arms, hardware, Trash Receptables, Planting Baskets, Water features/ fountains, Fences, Flagpoles, Public Art, Rockery, seat wall, modular benches)	24 unit Escofet benches	NA	42 lin.m seatwall	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General maintenance • Garbage pick up • Watering/Fertilizing/ Deweeding • Graffiti removal

Although these projects have been approved for cost-sharing funding, the required maintenance agreements have not been executed. As such, the City risks securing these funding opportunities should the agreements not be resolved. Delegating authority for the Public Works DCM to execute the maintenance agreements is necessary to ensure that the City's approved capital activities can continue and benefit from the additional funding provided by the Region. Facilitating a more seamless process will also ensure the City can leverage new intergovernmental funding opportunities to support identified Council priorities and plans.

Financial Impact

The projects have no financial Impact to current capital budget.

The financial impact to the annual operating budget is provided below:

Asset	Project #1 Major Mackenzie Drive (Highway	Project #2 Highway 7 (Edgeley-	Project #3 Major Mackenzie Drive	Project #4 Major Mackenzie Drive and Station	Rate	Annual Financial Impact
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	400-Jane Street)	Applewood)	and Civic Centre Drive	Street (Maple GO)		
Sidewalk / Multiuse path	Unit paving: 580 sq.m	Unit paving: 748 sq.m	Unit paving: 394 sq.m	0.2 km concrete walkway	Sidewalk Snow Removal: \$ 2,400 per Km	\$480 \$3350
Cycling Facility (on boulevard)	NA	NA	NA	NA	Paver Maintenance: \$1.675 per sq.m	
Irrigation and Drainage Systems (Conduits, Irrigation heads, Controllers and Valves, Sub drains)	1 unit	NA	NA	NA	\$ 2,500 per unit	\$2,500
Concrete Planters	NA	NA	3	NA	\$ 400 per unit	\$1,200
Flower/Shrub Beds	172 sq.m	NA	395 sq.m	915 sq.m	Class C: \$ 25 per sq.m	\$37,050
Site Furniture	24 unit Escofet benches	NA	42 lin.m seatwall	NA	Benches: \$ 100 per unit	\$5,100
Total Impact:						\$49,680

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

The Municipal Streetscape Program is administered and funded by the Region of York. The City supports the Region's goal to enhance its urban structure through city-building, intensification and the development of compact and complete communities and streets, by:

- Connecting major transit and transportation infrastructure with the local community by using accessible and pedestrian-friendly design; and
- Promoting active transportation through the creation of safe and attractive public spaces within the Region's right-of-way.

The funding for MSPP is reviewed annually through the Region's budget process. If the total annual budget of \$1M for the program is not spent, funds are re-allocated to other Transportation Services growth-related road projects. Part of the City's responsibility to secure the Region's MSPP funding is to commit to maintenance obligations with a signed maintenance Agreement. If executed agreements are not provided in a timely manner, the Region may withdraw the approved funding thereby causing reduced funding and delays in project implementation.

Conclusion

The Region of York's MSPP creates opportunities for collaborative partnerships between the Region and local municipalities to deliver a common goal. The cost sharing of projects helps enhance community aesthetics and create safe enjoyable spaces for all pedestrians and users.

Council approval of the recommendations will improve the administration, financial responsibility and successful implementation of streetscape infrastructure delivered through these partnership programs:

- Delegated authority for DCM of Public Works to execute Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program (MSPP) maintenance agreements with Region of York.
- The MSPP funding agreements for the approved projects will be executed by DCM of Public Works. All funds will be distributed as per the MSPP terms and conditions and allocated as indicated in this report.

For more information, please contact: Shirley Marsh, Project Manager Urban Design, at ext. 8561.

Attachments

N/A

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Nick Spensieri, City Manager