

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Committee of the Whole (2)

DATE: Tuesday, April 18, 2023

TITLE: NINE POINT ACTION PLAN TO FIGHT TRAFFIC GRIDLOCK

FROM:

Mayor Steven Del Duca

Whereas, the City of Vaughan's 2022 Citizen and Business Surveys say traffic and traffic-related concerns are ranked top-of-mind by residents and businesses as the critical issues facing the community; and

Whereas, gridlock challenges are further compounded by the city's rapidly growing population. A recent forecast by York Region suggests that by 2051, Vaughan's population will increase by more than 66 per cent to be nearly 570,000; and

Whereas, reducing congestion is essential to advancing Council-approved secondary plans to develop new residential units in prominent areas throughout the city, like the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre (VMC), Weston Road and Highway 7, Yonge Street and Steeles Avenue, Vaughan Mills and the Promenade Centre; and

Whereas, addressing current and future traffic issues is paramount to implementing the Ontario Government's Housing Pledge and the City's provincially mandated housing targets to facilitate the construction of 42,000 new homes in Vaughan by 2031. Building homes in neighbourhoods with access to transit is a key part of the solution to tackling gridlock in Vaughan; and

Whereas, Vaughan Council has a successful track record of making transit a leading city-building priority with such projects as TTC Subway service into the VMC downtown core, existing and expanded Bus Rapid Transit service across Highway 7 and the proposed Yonge North Subway Extension; and

Whereas, combating gridlock is critical to local economic competitiveness. Vaughan's strategic location to 400 series highways, airports, and railways are essential to retaining and attracting economic development and job-creating opportunities. Vaughan surpassed

regional, provincial and national economic growth rates in 2021, with nearly 19,000 businesses employing more than 236,000 workers, producing a real GDP of almost \$25 billion; and

Whereas, traffic impacts residents' quality of life and the ability of families to spend more time together and travel to and from popular local amenities like community centres and sport facilities; and

Whereas, Transportation and Mobility is one of seven strategic priority areas of the Council-approved 2022-2026 Term of Council Service Excellence Strategic Plan, with a specific objective to advocate for improve Vaughan's roads and street network; and

Whereas, the City has planned or is currently underway several different transportation, mobility and infrastructure projects that will help alleviate gridlock pressures across different municipal wards; and

Whereas, to plan, fund and complete essential traffic and transportation infrastructure projects, the City must undertake effective advocacy efforts with all government levels to secure investments for projects that will not only benefit Vaughan but the entire Toronto Region – a critical region for Ontario and Canada; and

Whereas, in addition to clearly outlining vital gridlock infrastructure initiatives for funding, this effort will help to coordinate construction timelines with other government levels like York Region.

It is therefore recommended:

1. THAT, Vaughan Council endorse a nine point Action Plan to Fight Traffic Gridlock in Vaughan, consisting of the following projects:
 - a. Widening Highway 7 to six general-purpose lanes of traffic between Wigwoss Drive and Kipling Avenue.
 - b. Connecting Langstaff Road over the CN MacMillan Yard and upgrading the interchange at Langstaff Road and Highway 400.
 - c. Connecting Kirby Road between Dufferin and Bathurst Streets.
 - d. Connecting Teston Road between Keele and Dufferin Streets.
 - e. Building two additional east-west bridges over Highway 400, one linking Colossus Drive to the southern Vaughan Metropolitan Centre south of Highway 7; and the other linking Canada Drive and America Avenue north of Major Mackenzie Drive.
 - f. Building the extension of Bass Pro Mills Drive to Weston Road to help improve general traffic flow without negatively impacting existing residential neighbourhoods.
 - g. Continuing Council's strong support for the Yonge North Subway Extension.
 - h. Continuing Council advocacy for GO Train service for Woodbridge and Kleinburg-Nashville, and for new GO stations on the Barrie GO corridor at Concord and Kirby.

- i. Continuing support for York Region Rapid Transit's plan to deliver Bus Rapid Transit on Jane Street, Major Mackenzie Drive and Steeles Avenue.
2. THAT, staff be directed to work with other government levels, stakeholders and the community to ensure the above-mentioned projects can be successfully planned, funded and completed; and
3. THAT, a copy of this Member's Resolution and correspondence about the Member's Resolution be sent to the federal and provincial Transportation Ministers, copying Vaughan-area Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Parliament, York Region and Metrolinx.

Attachments:

None.