

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Tuesday, September 19, 2023

WARD(S): ALL

**TITLE: TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE TASK FORCE –
IMPLEMENTATION STATUS UPDATE**

FROM:

Vince Musacchio, Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure Development

ACTION: FOR INFORMATION

Purpose

In May 2022, the Transportation and Infrastructure Task Force presented their Findings Report to Committee of the Whole, which included 21 recommended actions based on the work of the Task Force during its mandate. Council requested staff to prepare a plan to implement the recommendations in 2023.

Report Highlights

- The Transportation and Infrastructure Task Force identified 21 recommended actions, the majority of which require new initiatives to be implemented by staff.
- A status update on each of the recommended actions is provided in this report by the identified lead department.
- A number of the recommendations are multi-year initiatives.

Recommendations

1. That Council reaffirm support for all 21 recommended actions.
2. That a copy of this report be forwarded to York Region and that a request be made to respond to actions 11, 18, 20 and 21.

Background

The 21 recommended actions are organized in three categories: actions which are already underway which would benefit from reaffirmation of support, actions that are not

underway and need to be brought forward to Council for approval, and actions which are the jurisdiction of York Region.

Previous Reports/Authority

[Transportation and Infrastructure Task Force – Findings Report \(Transmittal Report\), Item 12, Committee of the Whole \(2\), May 10, 2022](#)

Analysis and Options

Planning for implementation of each of the actions is ongoing and requires input from multiple internal and potentially external stakeholders.

The actions, their category, and their corresponding number in the May 2022 report, are summarized below:

| <u>No.</u> | <u>Action</u> | <u>Action Category</u> | <u>Lead Department and Status Update</u> |
|-------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Incentivize major employment developments within the City so that residents can live and work in Vaughan. | Reaffirm Support | <p>Policy Planning and Special Programs, Economic Development.</p> <p>Through the official plan review staff will propose policies that continue to protect the City’s employment lands from being converted to other uses and that permit greater flexibility with respect to land uses in employment lands in order to enhance their long-term viability.</p> <p>Vaughan Economic Development is partner in the recently launched Mobility Demonstration Zone which supports small and medium-sized enterprises in advancing automotive and smart mobility. <u>Please see June 2023 Council report for more details.</u></p> |

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| 2. | Implement the Rutherford Maple GO Mobility On-Request Pilot Project to reduce the number of transit users who drive and park at GO stations. | Reaffirm Support | <p>Infrastructure Planning and Corporate Asset Management</p> <p>Pilot Project in service from May 2022 to May 2023. Service adopted by YRT as of May 2023 (see related communication). Summary report to be brought to Council in September 2023.</p> |
| 3. | Implement the MoveSmart Mobility Management Strategy, specifically the Road Safety Program, the Sustainable Mobility Program, and the Active School Travel Pilot to encourage greater use of alternative modes. | Reaffirm Support | <p>Transportation and Fleet Management Services</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Plan is underway and expected to be completed in 2024. This Plan will update the City's existing Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Policy and Procedure, create a toolbox of traffic calming measures, and update design guidelines and engineering standards.</p> <p>The City continues to implement the Speed limit Policy and to identify neighbourhood areas and streets for speed revision.</p> <p>York Region Traveller Safety Plan is expected to be completed by end of 2023.</p> <p>Automated Speed Enforcement Program is underdevelopment, with community safety zones. A report is planned for Q4 2023 to provide an update.</p> <p>The Active School Travel pilot program ran successfully from May 2022-June 2023 in eight schools</p> |

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| | | | <p>across all of Vaughan's five wards. Through the Safer School Zone Plan a comprehensive review of the Active School Travel Pilot Program is underway. Through this plan, and with ongoing collaboration with the program partners, the City will continue to find ways to improve the program with anticipated expansion in other school areas.</p> <p>Maintaining Cycling facilities through pavement markings program.</p> <p>The MoveSmart annual report is planned for Q1 2024 to provide Council with an update on the MoveSmart initiatives.</p> |
| 4. | Design streets for people of all ages and abilities consistent with the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, the upcoming Vaughan Complete Streets Guidelines, and the future update of the Engineering Design Criteria and Standard Drawings. | Reaffirm Support | <p>Infrastructure Planning and Corporate Asset Management, Development Planning (Urban Design)</p> <p>Vaughan Complete Streets Guidelines expected to be brought to Council in Q4 2023. Update to Engineering Design Criteria and Standard Drawings planned to start in Q3/Q4 2023.</p> |
| 5. | Implement recommendations of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, including providing separated pedestrian and cycling facilities consistent with the Contextual Guidance for Selecting All Ages and Abilities Cycling Facilities. | Reaffirm Support | <p>Infrastructure Planning and Corporate Asset Management</p> <p>New pedestrian and cycling facilities continue to be designed consistent with the Contextual Guidance.</p> |

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| 6. | Continue implementing the Transportation Demand Management Guidelines which encourage new developments to incentivize transit ridership, and provide bicycle parking and amenities. | Reaffirm Support | Development Engineering Staff consistently request all development applications to review TDM Guideline and Toolkit and provide TDM and active transportation measures as applicable to their sites. |
| 7. | Implement a transportation pilot program which will test new forms and methods of offering non-auto travel to residents and businesses. | New Action – Staff to update Council | Economic Development, Infrastructure Planning and Corporate Asset Management Report to Council on the Transportation Innovation Program in June 2023 . Please see Communication for more details . |
| 8. | Encourage and promote development in intensification areas and corridors by reducing reliance on single-occupant vehicles through lowered mandatory parking requirements for residents, increasing transit frequency and affordability, and enhancing transit and active transportation coverage and safety. | New Action – Staff to update Council | Policy Planning and Special Programs, Development Planning, Development Engineering, Infrastructure Planning and Corporate Asset Management Staff continue working with Applicants to encourage provision of parking supply do not exceed the minimum parking requirements for each land use and the implementation of safe active transportation facilities with each development application. The City’s official plan policies promote intensification along its intensification corridor’s that contain higher order transit like the subway, GO and BRT lines. These areas will be further intensified through the City’s updated official plan in |

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| | | | accordance with Provincial and Regional land use planning policy. |
| 9. | Improve safety at pedestrian crossings through the MoveSmart Mobility Management Strategy, including the consideration of improved pavement markings, providing pedestrian signals and/or countdown timers, incorporating leading pedestrian intervals at signalized intersections and implementing pedestrian "scramble" phases at appropriate locations. | New Action – Staff to update Council | <p>Transportation and Fleet Management Services</p> <p>Pedestrian Enhancement Plan expected to launch in Q4 2023.</p> <p>Continue to implement new pedestrian crosswalks through pavement markings program in 2024.</p> <p>Continue to implement pedestrian countdown timers at signalized intersection. Continue to identify pedestrian crossovers for implementation through traffic operational studies, corridor reviews, and neighbourhood area traffic studies.</p> |
| 10. | Incorporate mixed-use or residential developments above and surrounding existing or new parking structures at transit hubs. | New Action – Staff to update Council | <p>Policy Planning and Special Programs</p> <p>New policies to support mixed-use or residential above parking structures and transit hubs may be incorporated through Phase 2 of the official plan review.</p> |
| 11. | Design signalized intersections along the BRT corridors for all ages and abilities with adequate signal timing plans to manage conflicts between u-turning and right-turning vehicles. | Request from York Region | <p>Transportation and Fleet Management Services, Infrastructure Planning and Corporate Asset Management</p> <p>Major BRT corridors are along regional roads and York Region transit is operated by the Region. City staff will continue to work with</p> |

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| | | | <p>the Region on road reconstruction projects, corridor operational studies, and signal timing coordination.</p> <p>Recommend that this report be forwarded to York Region and request that comments/actions be submitted to a future Council meeting.</p> |
| 12. | Develop a set of guidelines for micro-mobility devices including where and how they are permitted to operate, park, and charge, and an appropriate licensing regime. | New Action – Staff to update Council | <p>Infrastructure Planning and Corporate Asset Management</p> <p>Staff will bring a report to Council in September 2023 to allow e-bikes and e-scooters to operate in designated cycling facilities, and to initiate a shared e-bike/e-scooter pilot project.</p> |
| 13. | Incorporate charging facilities for electric vehicles at existing and new parking lots, and at all City facilities. | New Action – Staff to update Council | <p>Facility Management</p> <p>The City of Vaughan’s application to the Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program (ZEVIP) has been conditionally approved for funding. The application includes 50% reimbursement up to \$230,000 for 23 dual-head charging stations/46 EV connections.</p> <p>The new Carville Community Centre will have 12 connections. Facility Management will be submitting a Capital request for 2024 for an EV charging program, complete with developing a strategy plan for the city as well funding for EV charging infrastructure and EV chargers.</p> |

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| 14. | Reduce minimum parking requirements in identified intensification areas and corridors, major transit station areas, etc. as currently prescribed in the Vaughan Comprehensive Zoning By-Law No. 001-2021. | New Action – Staff to update Council | Policy Planning and Special Programs, Development Planning, Development Engineering, Building Standards, Infrastructure Planning and Corporate Asset Management PPSP will propose reduced parking standard for intensification areas through the official plan review; as these areas are located along rapid transit corridors. |
| 15. | Collect and analyze additional sources of transportation data such as Open Data, GPS, Bluetooth, embedded sensors and commercially available datasets. | New Action – Staff to update Council | Infrastructure Planning and Corporate Asset Management, Transportation and Fleet Management Services A project to develop a data management strategy is planned for Q4 2023 which will include data collection and new technologies. Department roles and responsibilities will be refined through development of the program. |
| 16. | Incorporate data collection devices into all transportation construction projects. | New Action – Staff to update Council | Infrastructure Delivery Upon the completion of the Transportation Data Management Strategy, Infrastructure Delivery will be tasked with relevant implementation recommendations. |
| 17. | Encourage more pedestrian-only streets within the City. | New Action – Staff to update Council | Infrastructure Planning and Corporate Asset Management, Transportation and Fleet Management Services Staff to investigate opportunities for pedestrian-only streets as part of on-going and future Secondary Plan studies. |

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| 18. | Advance discussions with Metrolinx and neighbouring transit agencies with respect to fare integration, distance-based fares and minimizing additional fares across jurisdictional boundaries. | Request from York Region | Infrastructure Planning and Corporate Asset Management Recommend that this report be forwarded to York Region and request that comments / actions be communicated to a future Council meeting. |
| 19. | Explore innovative ways to improve congestion at major intersections in Vaughan. | New Action – Staff to update Council | Transportation and Fleet Management Services Staff continue to work with the Region on Regional Road reconstruction projects to improve intersections to add intersection capacity and implement the MoveSmart programs. Recommend that this report be forwarded to York Region and request that comments/ actions be communicated to a future Council meeting. |
| 20. | Eliminate lane reductions on arterial roadways between signalized intersections. | Request from York Region | Infrastructure Planning and Corporate Asset Management Staff continue to work with York Region and the Province to advocate for improved capacity within the transportation system through planned road improvements, new road construction and targeted bridge enhancements to resolve bottlenecks and reduce gridlock. An example of this how the City is advocating for 6 general purpose lanes and 2 BRT lanes on Highway |

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| | | | 7 between Wigwoss and Kipling Avenue. Please see the April 2023 Communication for more details . |
| 21. | Investigate new or enhance existing non-fare transit revenue to fund future improvements. | Request from York Region | Infrastructure Planning and Corporate Asset Management Recommend that this report be forwarded to York Region and request that comments / actions be communicated to a future Council meeting. |

Financial Impact

There are no direct financial impacts from this report, but initiatives described may require additional funds, which will be outlined in separate reports to Council.

Operational Impact

The Lead Departments noted above were consulted in the preparation of this report.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

Recommendations from the Task Force which must be requested from York Region may have impact on York Region’s 10-year Roads and Transit Growth Capital Construction Program, York Region Transit revenues, and inter-municipal transit agency operations and revenues.

Conclusion

The recommendations of the Transportation and Infrastructure Task Force are a foundational element in the improvement of the City’s transportation system. Many of the recommendations are already being implemented by staff, and others are currently being planned for implementation. As progress continues, staff will provide regular updates to Council in conjunction with other major City transportation initiatives.

For more information, please contact Selma Hubjer, Director, Infrastructure Planning and Corporate Asset Management, ext. 8674

Attachments

N/A

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