

Committee of the Whole (1) Report

DATE: Tuesday, November 28, 2023

WARD: 1

**TITLE: HIGHWAY 413 TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR ROUTE
PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STUDY
UPDATE PRESENTATION**

FROM:

Vince Musacchio, Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure Development

ACTION: FOR INFORMATION

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Highway 413 Transportation Corridor Route Planning and Environmental Assessment (EA) Study as a cover for the Highway 413 Project Team's presentation.

Report Highlights

- Work continues with the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) to meet the requirements of the Federal Impact Assessment process.
- Work on the Provincial EA and preliminary design continues to advance.
- Public Information Centers (PICs) were recently held to provide updates on the study's progress.

Recommendations

1. That the presentation from the Highway 413 Project Team with respect to the Highway 413 Transportation Corridor Route Planning and Environmental Assessment Study be received for information purposes; and
2. That a copy of this report be forwarded to the Province, the Ministry of Transportation Ontario (MTO), the City of Brampton, Town of Caledon, Township of King, Region of Peel and Region of York.

Background

The Highway 413 EA study spans from Highway 400 in the east to the Highway 401/407 ETR interchange in the west. The new corridor would include a 400-series 4-to-6-lane highway with freeway-to-freeway connections at Highway 401/407 ETR, Highway 410, Highway 427, and Highway 400. In Vaughan, the study spans from Highway 400 to the border with Peel Region, and includes a full interchange at a future extension of Highway 427, a full interchange at Highway 27, a partial interchange at Weston Road, and a full interchange with Highway 400. The right-of-way would range between 110m (highway) without the transitway and 170m including a separate adjacent transitway. Conceptual planning for the Transitway is included as part of this EA; however, a Transit Project Assessment Process (TPAP), which is a separate EA project will be required to determine the type of transit and other details. Additional information can be found on the Highway 413 EA website at: <https://www.highway413.ca/>.

On May 3, 2021, the Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change determined that the Highway 413 Study warrants designation under the Federal Impact Assessment Act (IAA). It is a planning and decision-making tool used to assess:

- Positive and negative environmental, economic, health, and social effects of proposed projects.
- Impacts to Indigenous peoples and communities and their Aboriginal and treaty rights.

Council, at its meeting of March 10, 2021, supported the Federal Impact Assessment of the proposed Highway 413 project. Council also voted not to endorse the proposed Highway 413 project.

Previous Reports/Authority

[Item 1, Report No. 54, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on December 10, 2021](#)

Analysis and Options

Federal Impact Assessment Act (IAA) Update

The Highway 413 Project Team and the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) are working with the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) to meet the requirements of the Federal Impact Assessment process. One of the first steps is the preparation of a comprehensive Initial Project Description (IPD). To develop the IPD, the Project Team summarized past engagement and key issues and concerns received to date.

Additionally, Regions, municipalities and broader public sector organizations along the Preferred Route of the project were given the opportunity to provide input via community

consultation interviews in late 2022, a Human Health Impact Study scoping meeting in early 2023 and a review of the draft IPD in August 2023.

Ongoing Preliminary Design Work and Meetings

A designation of the Highway 413 project for a Federal Impact Assessment does not replace the Provincial Environmental Assessment (EA) process underway. The Highway 413 Project Team continues to advance the Provincial EA, through refinements to the design of the route of the new highway and transit corridor as well as field work and investigations to inform the design and develop proposed mitigation measures for potential effects. An interactive map showing the fifty percent (50%) preliminary design is available on the project website at <https://www.highway413.ca/>.

Staff continue to attend preliminary design meetings with the Highway 413 Project Team to protect the City's interests, address the City's requirements and to provide technical comments on the preliminary design. The last of such meetings took place on July 26, 2023, with City of Vaughan, Township of King and York Region staff. A Municipal Advisory Group (MAG) and Regulatory Agency Advisory Group (RAAG) meeting also took place on September 26, 2023.

Highway 413 Public Information Centres

The Highway 413 Project Team held Public Information Centres (PICs) for the public and stakeholders to learn about the latest design of the transportation corridor. The PICs also provided an update on the content of the draft IPD and progress in key areas of federal interest. The PICs took place as follows:

September 28, 2023 – York Region 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

October 3, 2023 – Halton Region 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

October 5, 2023 – Peel Region 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Similar to previous public engagements, the Highway 413 Project Team provided a presentation followed by a question-and-answer period. Expert panelists from a variety of disciplines (e.g., noise, air quality, fisheries, archaeology, etc.) were in attendance to answer questions. Each session covered the same content, but some portions of the presentation were specific to the regions identified for each meeting date.

The PIC was conducted as an online session hosted through the Zoom platform. Recordings of the events have been posted on the project website. Recordings of

previous public consultation engagements can also be found on the project website at <https://www.highway413.ca/consultation/#opportunities>.

Financial Impact

There are no immediate financial impacts associated with this report.

Operational Impact

There are no operational impacts associated with this report.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

Staff from the Region of York and King Township are actively participating in the Highway 413 Project and have been attending the Municipal Advisory Group (MAG) meetings.

Conclusion

The Highway 413 Project Team continues to work with the IAAC to meet the requirements of the Federal Impact Assessment process. Next steps in the process is to refine the draft IPD based on comments received, then submit to IAAC in late 2023. Upon acceptance of the final IPD, IAAC will post it to their registry and undertake their own public engagement on the document in **early 2024**, and prepare a Summary of Issues. The Highway 413 Project Team will then prepare a Detailed Project Description (DPD) to address the Summary of Issues. After the DPD is submitted, the Agency must provide a decision regarding whether a Federal Impact Assessment is required.

The Highway 413 Project Team will continue with preliminary design efforts, public and stakeholder consultations and engagements, and environmental studies. City staff will continue to work with the Highway 413 Project Team on the Preliminary Design for the Preferred Route.

The study's completion date is unknown at this time, and could be impacted by IAAC's decision regarding whether a Federal Impact Assessment is required.

Staff will continue to monitor the Highway 413 EA Study and provide updates to Council with new information.

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

Attachments

N/A

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