

VMC Sub-committee Report

DATE: Wednesday, October 30, 2024

WARD: 4

**TITLE: VMC INTERCHANGE WAY AND MILLWAY AVENUE
MUNICIPAL CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
STUDIES – FINAL UPDATE**

FROM:

Haiqing Xu, Deputy City Manager, Planning and Growth Management

ACTION: FOR INFORMATION

Purpose

To provide an update and highlight the conclusions and recommendations of the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre (VMC) Interchange Way and Millway Avenue Schedule 'C' Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) studies.

Report Highlights

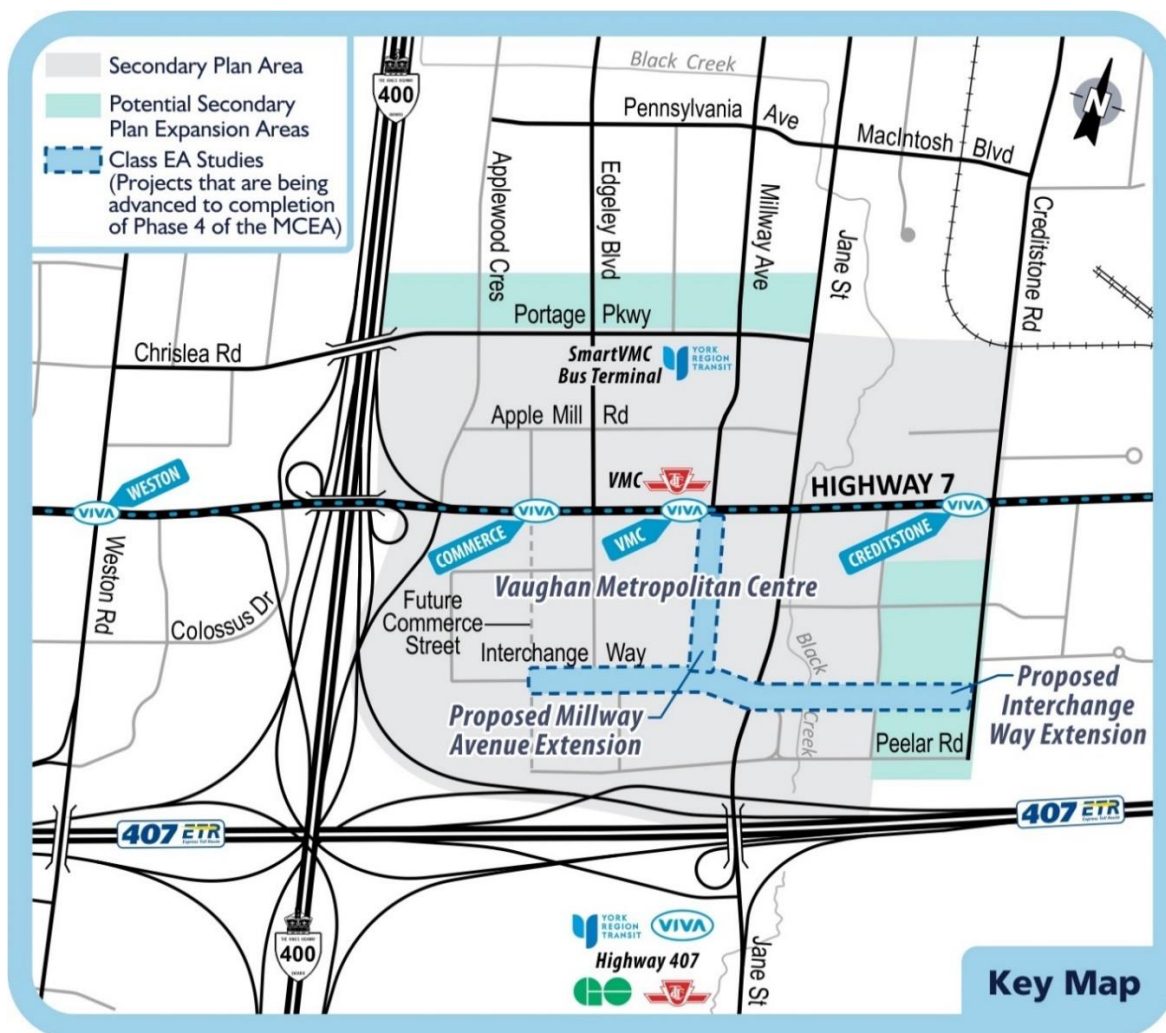
- The Interchange Way and Millway Avenue MCEA studies were initiated in November 2020 as the last two Major Collector Roads to complete the spine road network within the VMC by 2031.
- The Consulting Team has completed Phases 1, 2 and 3 of the MCEA process.
- Two rounds of consultation were completed in March and December 2023; the preferred design alternative and cross-section for both roads were presented to the public on December 5, 2023.
- The Project Team is currently working on completing the Environmental Study Reports (Phase 4) with an estimated completion target of Q4 2024.

Recommendation

1. THAT this report be received for information.

Background

The City of Vaughan's 2012 Transportation Master Plan (2012 TMP) – A New Path, identified the Millway Avenue Southerly Extension and Interchange Way Widening and Extension to Creditstone Road as strategic improvements and key elements in support of the VMC. These two roads are the last two major collector roads that form the spine road network within the VMC. Since no advancement had occurred by 2020, the City initiated two Schedule 'C' MCEA studies for Millway Avenue (between Highway 7 and Interchange Way east-west) and Interchange Way (between Commerce Street and Creditstone Road) as identified in the illustration below.



These two MCEA studies will help realize the complete spine road network within the VMC by 2031, as recommended in the 2012 TMP. The VMC is currently nearing the 2031 population and these two missing links/gaps in the network are critical to address travel demand, capacity and mobility needs of all users, with priority to transit and non-auto-based modes of travel.

Previous Reports/Authority

[VMC Studies Update January 2024](#)

[VMC Studies Update - April 2023](#)

[VMC Studies Update - September 2022](#)

[VMC Transportation Master Plan Update November 2021](#)

[VMC Studies Update November 2020](#)

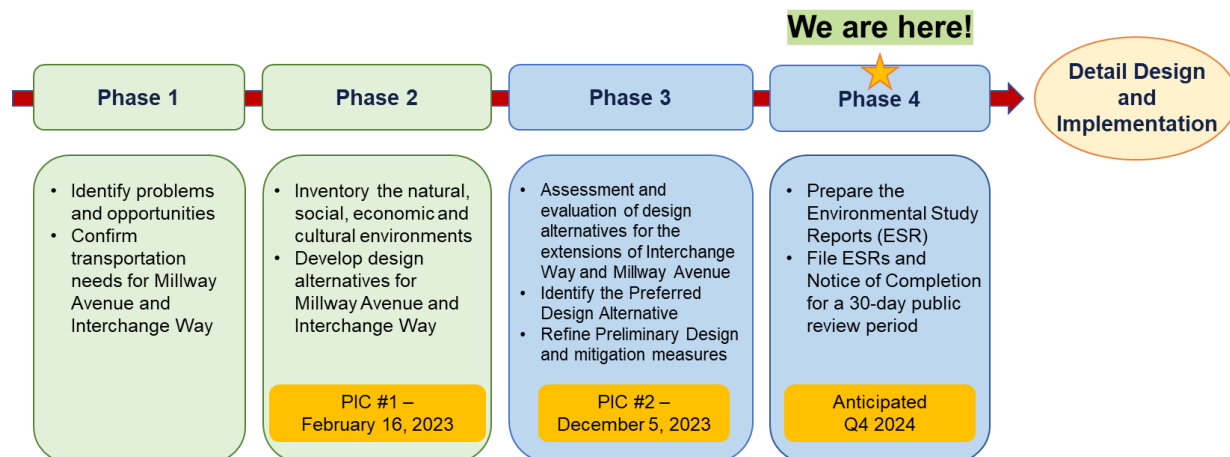
[Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Studies Update May 2020](#)

[VMC Implementation and Construction Update December 2019](#)

Analysis and Options

Notice of Study Commencement and Phases 1 and 2

In 2020, the City retained WSP Canada to undertake the Interchange Way and Millway Avenue MCEA studies concurrently with the VMC TMP Update. A Notice of Study Commencement was issued in November 2020. Since then, the Consulting Team has completed Phases 1, 2 and 3 of the MCEA process as summarized in the illustration below and is currently preparing the Environmental Study Reports (ESRs) with an anticipated completion target of Q4 2024.



Key elements of the work completed since November 2020 include:

- Phase 1:
 - Confirmed the problem and opportunity, and transportation need for the two projects, as previously identified in the 2012 TMP.
- Phase 2:
 - Inventoried the existing natural, social, transportation, economic and cultural environments.
 - Prepared design alternatives for each roadway.

- Phase 3:
 - Developed evaluation criteria to assess the proposed design alternatives.
 - Identified potential impacts on the natural, cultural, and socio-economic environments and technical and financial criteria, and identified measures to mitigate those impacts.
 - Evaluated the proposed design alternative and identified the preferred alternative.

Round 1 Consultation

All the project work noted above was carried out in consultation with regulatory agencies and the public. The first round of consultation was carried out after the completion of Phase 2 in conjunction with the TMP Update project. An in-person Public Information Centre (PIC) #1 was held on February 16, 2023, and all display materials were made available online, including a survey for public review until March 24, 2023, seeking feedback and input on the presented study area and design alternatives.

Phase 3 and 4 Including Round 2 Consultation

With input and feedback from the first round of consultation, the proposed design alternatives were evaluated using a multi-account evaluation criteria method to assess the impacts to the natural, socio-economic, cultural and transportation environments, and feasibility with respect to constructability and cost. The preferred design alternative was determined for each roadway and cross-section developed through the Phase 3 work, which are presented in Attachment 1 and 2 of this report, respectively.

Following completion of Phase 3 of the project, a second round of consultation was carried out with an in-person PIC #2 being held on December 5, 2023, to present and receive feedback on the preferred alternative design and cross-section for both roadways. In addition to the in-person session, all display materials and commenting forms were made available online as well as an online survey for the public to review and provide feedback until January 31, 2024.

The Project Team is currently working on completing the two roadway ESRs (Phase 4), summarizing the environmental investigation findings, mitigation measures, and features of the Preferred Alternatives, with an estimated completion target of Q4 2024. The reports will be made available for public review ([online](#) and in-person) in accordance with the MCEA process for a 30-day commenting period after filing the Notice of Completion. All comments received during the review period will be addressed and/or responded to prior to filing the ESRs with Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts resulting from this report.

Operational Impact

The two EA studies that staff are undertaking, have been robustly coordinated across City departments and with external agencies and other stakeholders, through Technical Advisory Committee meetings and other engagement touchpoints.

There are no other operational impacts resulting from this report.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

Collaboration continues with regional stakeholders which is an important factor in realizing the success of the VMC.

Conclusion

Various studies have been initiated and coordinated to ensure that the downtown continues to develop as a complete and balanced community, that is transit-supportive and pedestrian-friendly. As such, to complete the VMC spine road network, the City initiated two Schedule 'C' MCEA studies for Millway Avenue (between Highway 7 and Interchange Way east-west) and Interchange Way (between Commerce Street and Creditstone Road) in November 2020. Since then, the Consulting Team has completed Phases 1, 2 and 3 of the MCEA process and is currently preparing the Environmental Study Reports (ESRs) with an anticipated completion target of Q4 2024.

For more information, please contact: Christina Bruce, Director of Policy Planning & Special Programs, ext. 8231.

Attachments

1. Interchange Way and Millway Avenue Preferred Design Alternatives.
2. Interchange Way and Millway Avenue Preferred Cross-Section.

Prepared by

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