

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Committee of the Whole (1)

DATE: Tuesday, January 21, 2025

TITLE: TAKING CHARGE OF OUR ROADS TO FIGHT GRIDLOCK

FROM:

Mayor Steven Del Duca

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, 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, 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, Vaughan Council has endorsed Mayor Del Duca's Member's Resolution to Fight Traffic Gridlock, consisting of numerous critical infrastructure projects to alleviate gridlock pressures across every ward; 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; and

Whereas, the following key initiatives are identified within both the York Region Transportation Master Plan and the Vaughan Transportation Plan as priority infrastructure improvements:

- a. Teston Road extension from Keele Street to Dufferin Street;
- b. Langstaff Road connection from Jane Street to Keele Street;
- c. Highway 7 widening from Pine Valley Drive to Martin Grove Road; and

Whereas, during the June 2023 Special Committee of the Whole meeting, Vaughan Council unanimously approved a Member's Resolution calling for Vaughan to explore becoming a single-tier municipality and to undertake an analysis required to support further understanding a new governance model. The Member's Resolution specifically states that the status quo governance model in York Region should be changed and modernized to reflect the current future needs of Vaughan's residents; and

Whereas, following the analysis performed by Ernst & Young as part of the aforementioned Member's Resolution, Council approved a Member's Resolution from December 2023 which outlined that the City of Vaughan's submission to the Ontario Legislature's Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure, and Cultural Policy's meeting on regional governance be based on the principles of devolving planning, roads and economic development responsibilities from York Region to the City of Vaughan, and streamlining governance to better advance critical city-building issues; and

Whereas, the Province of Ontario introduced legislation in December 2024 that will transfer the delivery of Regional Roads (among other key public works services) from the Region of Peel to Mississauga, Brampton, and Caledon. The *Peel Transition Implementation Act, 2024*, specifies that the Regional Roads be downloaded to the lower-tier municipalities on July 1st, 2026.

It is therefore recommended:

1. That Council calls on York Region to immediately download the following Regional Roads to the City of Vaughan:
 - a. Teston Road from Keele Street to Dufferin Street;
 - b. Langstaff Road from Jane Street to Keele Street;
 - c. Highway 7 from Pine Valley Drive to Martin Grove Road; and
2. Council calls on York Region to transfer any funding currently allocated to the Regional Roads listed above to the City of Vaughan; and
3. Mayor Steven Del Duca send correspondence to the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, requesting that all remaining Regional Roads be downloaded from York Region to the City of Vaughan on a similar basis and timetable to the downloading of roads from Peel Region to the lower-tier municipalities, as outlined in the *Peel Transition Implementation Act, 2024*.

Financial and Staff Resource Impact

This Member's Resolution has no financial impacts.

Attachments

N/A