

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Tuesday, June 17, 2025

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: 2026 MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE
HOSTED BY VAUGHAN

FROM:

Vince Musacchio, Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure Development

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

Staff are seeking delegated authority to execute an agreement with the Municipal Engineers Association to bring the association's annual conference to Vaughan in 2026.

Report Highlights

- The Municipal Engineers Association is a professional organization that supports municipal engineers in Ontario through advocacy, standard-setting, and knowledge-sharing to advance public infrastructure delivery.
- The Municipal Engineers Association Conference is an annual event that brings together municipal engineering professionals to exchange ideas, share innovations, and discuss key infrastructure challenges and solutions.
- Hosting this conference positions the city as a leader in municipal innovation, while showcasing local projects and creating networking and economic opportunities.

Recommendations

1. That the Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure Development, be hereby authorized to execute an agreement with the Municipal Engineers Association for the City of Vaughan to host the 2026 Municipal Engineers Association conference on the terms outlined in this report, and in a form acceptable to the City Solicitor, or designate.

Background

In early 2025, the Office of the Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure Development approached the Municipal Engineers Association to express interest in hosting their annual conference in Vaughan. Excitingly, the Municipal Engineers Association Board has agreed to bring the event to the city in November 2026.

The Municipal Engineers Association represents over 1,200 Professional Engineers employed by municipalities across Ontario. They are also the stewards for the Ontario Provincial Standards (OPS Municipal) and the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) process.

Each year, the Municipal Engineers Association selects a different municipality in Ontario to host its highly anticipated conference. Now in its 66th year, the event brings about 400 municipal technical leaders and decision makers from across Ontario together for three days of networking, presentations, learning and exhibits. In addition to an expansive tradeshow with approximately 50 booths, the event includes numerous social events including an Awards Luncheon, President's Gala, Annual General Meeting for members, hospitality suites, technical sessions, tours and the annual Steve Carroll Memorial Hockey Classic. This year the Municipal Engineers Association Conference will be held in London, with past hosts including the City of Sarnia and City of Brampton, the City of Ottawa and the City of Toronto.

Previous Reports/Authority

N/A

Analysis and Options

Bringing the 2026 Municipal Engineers Association Conference to Vaughan is an opportunity to showcase the city, its world-class amenities, attractions and some of our most exciting and ambitious infrastructure projects. It will attract hundreds of municipal technical leaders and decision makers from across Ontario, generating close to half a million dollars for local hotels, Universal Event Space (the proposed conference venue,) as well as other venues across the City where social events and tours will be held. It will also offer a great opportunity for City of Vaughan staff to network and learn from other municipal staff and vendors.

Financial Impact

The Municipal Engineers Association covers all costs associated with the conference.

Operational Impact

The City is responsible for providing staff to support with planning and organizing the conference. This will be facilitated by staff in the Office of the Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure Development, in collaboration with our colleagues in Economic Development.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

N/A

Conclusion

Staff are seeking Council's approval to delegate authority to the Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure Development, or its designate, to approve and execute an agreement with the Municipal Engineers Association during the summer months. This will help guarantee that the 2006 Conference will be held in Vaughan.

For more information, please contact: Hilda Esedebe, Acting Program Manager, Special Projects, Office of the Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure Development
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Attachments

N/A

Prepared by

Vince Musacchio, Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure Development