

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Tuesday, November 10, 2020

WARD(S): 1 4

**TITLE: MAPLE GO STATION – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
WITH METROLINX**

FROM:

Nick Spensieri, Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure Development

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To seek Council approval to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Metrolinx for the Maple GO Station project. The MOU is necessary to set the roles and responsibilities of new City-owned infrastructure that Metrolinx will be constructing on the City's behalf. As well, to seek Council approval to create a new 2020 Capital Budget amendment to fund the infrastructure.

Report Highlights

- City of Vaughan staff and Metrolinx have been collaborating on plans for the Maple GO station improvements since 2016.
- Through the design process, new City-owned infrastructure has been identified as necessary to support future two-way, all-day, 15-minute service.
- The MOU outlines the roles and responsibilities of the City and Metrolinx to complete the project.
- The City and Metrolinx have agreed to a cost-sharing agreement in the MOU to design and construct a new pedestrian and cycling bridge over Major Mackenzie Drive.
- Metrolinx has also agreed to include the design and construction of the City's aged iron watermain as part of the scope of works. The construction cost to replace this watermain will be included within the new capital project and funded from the water infrastructure reserve.

Recommendations

1. That the Mayor and the City Clerk be authorized to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Metrolinx, and related agreements / documentation as indicated in the MOU, on behalf of the City with respect to the City-owned elements of the Maple GO Station project;
2. That Council authorize the creation of a new 2020 capital project in the amount of \$488,175 plus applicable taxes and administration recovery for the replacement of an existing City watermain in the vicinity of the new bridge, with funding from the water infrastructure reserve;
3. That the City's contribution to the new pedestrian and cycling bridge over Major Mackenzie Drive be funded from part of the proceeds of the sale of lands to Metrolinx;
4. That the inclusion of this matter on a Public Committee or Council agenda with respect to amending the Capital Budget identified as "Capital Budget Amendment – Watermain replacement in the vicinity of the Maple GO Station project" is deemed sufficient notice pursuant to Section 2(1)(c) of By-Law 394-2002, as amended; and
5. That all necessary by-laws be enacted.

Background

Metrolinx has identified improvements to the Maple GO station to facilitate the future two-way, all-day, 15-minute services on the Barrie GO rail corridor

Since 2016, staff and Metrolinx have been collaborating on the planning and design of improvements to Maple GO station. The project includes improvements to the station itself, as well as new transportation infrastructure to facilitate additional ridership anticipated when two-way, all-day, 15-minute service is implemented on the Barrie GO rail corridor. The major project components and their ownership are:

- New station platform and second track (Metrolinx)
- Revised passenger pick-up and drop-off area (Metrolinx)
- Expanded parking lot at Rodinea Road (Metrolinx)
- Extended and expanded cul-de-sac on Eagle Rock Way (Vaughan)
- New pedestrian and cycling bridge over Major Mackenzie Drive (Vaughan)
- New acoustic barriers along west side of Barrie rail corridor from north of Rutherford Road to McNaughton Road (Metrolinx)

The roles and responsibilities for design, construction, financing, maintaining and operating the project components are described in the MOU

Metrolinx will be responsible for the design and construction of all project components. The City will have opportunities to comment and review new City-owned project components through the design and construction process.

Metrolinx will be responsible for financing all project components, with the exception of the new pedestrian and cycling bridge over Major Mackenzie Drive and the watermain replacement on Major Mackenzie Drive. The new pedestrian and cycling bridge will be cost-shared between the City and Metrolinx. The construction cost for the replacement of the City's watermain on Major Mackenzie Drive will be funded through the water infrastructure reserve.

The MOU includes a provision to finalize the details of operations and maintenance for future infrastructure in a separate agreement. Broadly speaking, Vaughan will be responsible for operating and maintaining new City-owned infrastructure (i.e. Eagle Rock Way pavement, new pedestrian and cycling bridge, replacement watermain) and the portion of the acoustic barrier facing City property. Metrolinx will continue to maintain and operate station-related infrastructure, maintain the portion of the acoustic barrier facing Metrolinx property, as well as repair / replace any damaged sections of the acoustic barrier itself.

Metrolinx intends to release the tender for the Maple GO station project by Q1 2021. The project is scheduled to be completed by spring 2023

Metrolinx is currently working on finalizing the design drawings to support the tender documents needed to procure a contractor to undertake the improvements. In order to meet the necessary approval timelines, Metrolinx is requesting that the MOU be executed by November 2020. While Metrolinx has currently scheduled completion by spring 2023, completion timelines may be subject to change once the contract is awarded.

Previous Reports/Authority

Previous reports relating to Metrolinx related matters can be found at the following links:

[May 20, 2020, Committee of the Whole \(2\) \(Item 4, Report No. 14\) – Metrolinx Activities Update – Spring 2020](#)

[November 5, 2019, Committee of the Whole \(1\) \(Item 6, Report No. 7\) – Metrolinx Activities Update – Fall 2019](#)

[May 7, 2019, Committee of the Whole \(Item 12, Report No. 17\) – Metrolinx Activities Update](#)

[April 11, 2018, Committee of the Whole \(Item 9, Report No. 14\) – Metrolinx Draft 2041 Regional Transportation Plan and Regional Express Rail Initiatives Update](#)

[November 13, 2017, Committee of the Whole \(Working Session\) \(Item 2, Report No. 41\) - Metrolinx Draft 2041 Regional Transportation Plan](#)

[May 16, 2017, Committee of the Whole \(Working Session\) \(Item 1, Report No. 19\) - Metrolinx Regional Express Rail Update](#)

Analysis and Options

Completion of new pedestrian and cycling connections to and from Maple GO station will help to encourage greater use of increased transit service, assist in encouraging residents and businesses to use sustainable travel options, reduce the demand for parking at the station and mitigate roadway congestion

The Maple GO station project, including the new City-owned components, meet the overall goals of the City's 2012 Transportation Master Plan and leverages a partnership with Metrolinx to deliver enhanced transportation infrastructure for residents and businesses around the Maple GO station. It builds upon Metrolinx's plans for two-way, all-day, 15-minute service on the Barrie GO rail corridor and empowers existing and future residents and businesses of Vaughan to travel sustainably.

Coordinating replacement of aging City infrastructure with the Maple GO station project minimizes disruptions to residents and businesses during construction

Delivery of the City-owned components together with Metrolinx is prudent, and in some cases, necessary, to deliver the enhanced transportation infrastructure. In addition, the City is taking this opportunity to replace aging infrastructure during the construction activities of the new pedestrian and cycling bridge. By working together with Metrolinx to deliver this infrastructure, disruptions to existing residents and businesses as a result of the construction should be minimized.

Financial Impact

A new 2020 capital project budget in the amount of \$488,175 plus applicable taxes and administration recovery is requested to cover the costs for the watermain replacement. This funding will draw from the water infrastructure reserve.

As per the cost-sharing agreement between the City and Metrolinx, the City's portion of funds for the pedestrian and cycling bridge over Major Mackenzie Drive will be held back from the proceeds of the sale of lands to Metrolinx, which are required to facilitate construction of the GO Expansion program (formerly referred to as Regional Express Rail or RER). Such sale of lands was previously authorized by Council on June 19, 2018 through By-Law 146-2018. Once final costs of the pedestrian and cycling bridge are determined, Metrolinx will pay to the City the balance of the holdback funds minus the cost to construct the bridge.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

The new pedestrian and cycling bridge over Major Mackenzie Drive will be City-owned infrastructure over York Region's right-of-way. Discussions on required permits, licenses and agreements with York Region are ongoing.

Conclusion

Staff are working with Metrolinx to finalize a Memorandum of Understanding for the new City-owned infrastructure components of the Maple GO project. The City will be responsible for the long-term maintenance of the new City-owned infrastructure, and for its agreed upon portion of costs for the City's watermain replacement and the pedestrian and cycling over Major Mackenzie Drive. These costs will be paid through the water infrastructure reserve, and from the proceeds of the sale of lands to Metrolinx.

The new Maple GO project will result in enhanced transit, pedestrian and cycling infrastructure which will mitigate the impacts of traffic congestion and encourage travelers to shift towards more sustainable modes of transportation. Coordinating construction of both Metrolinx and City infrastructure to occur simultaneously minimizes the impact of construction on local residents and businesses.

For more information, please contact Vince Musacchio, Director of Infrastructure Planning and Corporate Asset Management, ext. 8311

Attachment

1. Confidential attachment to be provided to the Mayor and Members of Council.

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