



STAFF REPORT INFORMATION ONLY

York Region Environmental Assessment for Bayview Avenue

Date:	June 12, 2007
To:	North York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Infrastructure Management
Wards:	Willowdale, Ward 24
Reference Number:	p:\2007\ClusterB\tra\tim\ny07012tim

SUMMARY

The Regional Municipal of York (York Region) is currently undertaking a Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) Study for Bayview Avenue between John Street and Major Mackenzie Drive. This section of Bayview Avenue, which is located directly to the north of Ward 24 entirely within York Region, is identified in their 10 Year Capital Program for widening from its current four lanes to six lanes. The Class EA Study was initiated in 2006 and York Region staff expect to complete the study and report to York Region Council in the fall of 2007.

At the time of the writing of this report, York Region staff were still evaluating alternatives to address transportation deficiencies within this corridor and, as a result, had not identified the technically preferred improvements for Bayview Avenue. However, at its meeting in March 2007, York Region Council adopted, in principle, a policy that capital projects involving the widening of a road from four to six lanes be designed for the purpose of High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes. Transportation Services staff will report on the details of York Region staff's recommendations prior to the completion of the Class EA Study.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact resulting from the receipt of this report beyond what has already been approved in the Transportation Services Division's 2007 budget.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on April 25 to 27, 2006, City Council adopted, without amendments, Motion J (20), “Bayview Avenue Class Environmental Assessment Study - Opposition to Widening Bayview Avenue North of Steeles Avenue East to Highway 407.” This report provides an update on the status of the Bayview Avenue Class EA Study being undertaken by York Region.

COMMENTS

The widening of Bayview Avenue from four to six lanes, between John Street and Major Mackenzie Drive, is in York Region’s 10 Year Capital Program . In early 2006, York Region staff initiated a Class EA Study to examine existing and projected future transportation deficiencies and to evaluate potential improvements to address these deficiencies. The study is being conducted in accordance with the requirements for Schedule C projects under the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment.

York Region staff held public meetings for the Class EA study on April 4 and December 6, 2006. Information was presented at these meetings to establish the transportation problems to be addressed and the alternative transportation solutions proposed to be evaluated. A third public meeting is scheduled for June 27, 2007 to present the results of the comparative evaluation and identification of the preliminary preferred alternative.

The study area has been broken down into two areas: John Street to Highway 407; and Highway 407 to Major Mackenzie Drive. Each section is being evaluated separately and different preferred designs may be chosen for each section. The basic alternative being evaluated for both sections are: Do nothing; Intersection Improvements Only; and Widen Bayview Avenue to Six Lanes.

The details of the evaluation of the alternatives were not known at the time of the writing of this report. Transportation Services staff are continuing to track the progress of this study, and will provide a further report to North York Community Council on the outcome of the evaluation prior to York Region completing the Class EA study.

However, it should be noted that York Region has recently adopted, in principle, a policy that York Region roads planned to be widened from four to six lanes should be used for the implementation of High Occupancy Vehicles (HOV) Lanes. The report, adopted by York Region Council in March 2007, specifically indicates that HOV lanes will be presented as an option in the Bayview Avenue Class EA Study.

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