



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### Official Plan Amendment for Danforth Avenue and Victoria Park Avenue - Kingston Road Transit Improvements Project Assessment Request for Direction

<b>Date:</b>	October 17, 2008
<b>To:</b>	Planning and Growth Management Committee
<b>From:</b>	Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning Division
<b>Wards:</b>	Ward No. 35 and 36 Scarborough Southwest
<b>Reference Number:</b>	Pg080065

### SUMMARY

---

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's authorization for the preparation of a City-initiated Official Plan Amendment to amend Map 5 of the Official Plan in order to indicate a surface transit priority route on Danforth Avenue, from Victoria Park Avenue to Kingston Road, and along Victoria Park Avenue, from Danforth Avenue to Victoria Park Station.

The Official Plan Amendment would enable implementation of the project to commence in a timely manner upon approval of the transit project assessment and procurement of funding.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

---

#### The City Planning Division recommends that:

1. Staff be directed to prepare a draft official plan amendment to indicate a surface transit priority segment on Danforth Avenue, from Victoria Park Avenue to Kingston Road, and along Victoria Park Avenue, from Danforth Avenue to Victoria Park Station
2. The above mentioned official plan amendment be considered at a public meeting of the Planning and Growth Management Committee and notice for the public meeting be given according to the regulations under the Planning Act.

3. The Environmental Project Report (EPR) for the Kingston Road Transit Improvements Project Assessment be brought forward to the same Planning and Growth Management Committee as the Official Plan Amendment so that they may inform each other and be considered together.

## **Financial Impact**

The recommendations in this report have no financial impact.

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

### **Provincial Policy Statement and Provincial Plans**

The Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) provides policy direction on matters of provincial interest related to land use planning and development. The PPS sets the policy foundation for regulating the development and use of land. The key objectives include: building strong communities; wise use and management of resources; and, protecting public health and safety. City Council's planning decisions are required to be consistent with the PPS.

The Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe provides a framework for managing growth in the Greater Golden Horseshoe including: directions for where and how to grow; the provision of infrastructure to support growth; and protecting natural systems and cultivating a culture of conservation.

City Council's planning decisions are required by the Planning Act to conform, or not conflict, with the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

### **Official Plan**

The City's Official Plan, Map 5 Surface Transit Priority Network, identifies Kingston Road and Victoria Park Avenue north of the subway station, as surface transit priority routes. Policy 2.2.3 h) in the Plan outlines the type of transit priority measures such as dedicated lanes for transit and priority at signalized intersections. Danforth Avenue, within the study area, and the stretch of Victoria Park Avenue from Danforth Avenue north to the subway station are not identified for surface transit priority.

Furthermore, the Implementation section of the Official Plan contains a policy 5.3.1.1 which states that all public works should conform to the Official Plan. This is in line with the Planning Act (R.S.O. 1990) Section 24 which states that where an official plan is in effect, no public works shall be undertaken that does not conform to the Plan. Therefore the amendment to Map 5 is necessary to allow for dedicated transit measures along Danforth Avenue and part of Victoria Park Avenue, south of the subway station if required.

## **COMMENTS**

### **Provincial Policy Statement and Provincial Plans**

The proposed official plan amendment would be consistent with the PPS and would not conflict with the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

### **Official Plan**

In order for a dedicated transit facility to be constructed along Danforth Avenue and Victoria Park Avenue, south of the subway station, the City's Official Plan would need to be amended to address its Policy 5.3.1.1 and the Planning Act (R.S.O. 1990) Section 24 requirement for public works to conform to an official plan in effect. Therefore the amendment is necessary to allow for the possibility of the transit line to be routed along Danforth Avenue, from Kingston Road, and its connection to the Victoria Park station if constructed in dedicated lanes.

### **Kingston Road Transit Project Assessment**

This study has evolved from being an individual Environmental Assessment (April 2007) to a Class EA (October 2007) and now (August 2008) a Transit Project Assessment Process under the Environmental Assessment Act (Regulation 231/08).

The first round of public consultation open houses which presented the Draft Terms of Reference, under the individual Environmental Assessment study process, took place on April 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> 2007. The second round of open house sessions, under the Class Environmental Assessment process, took place on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2008. At the next round of public consultations, tentatively being planned for November/December 2008, the preferred design and evaluation will be presented. Along with the preferred design, the need for an official plan amendment will be identified to the public.

It is staff's intention to bring forward the Environmental Project Report for the study to the same meeting of Planning and Growth Management Committee as the Official Plan Amendment so that they may inform each other and be considered together.

## **CONTACT**

Rod McPhail  
Director, Transportation Planning  
Tel. No. (416) 392 8100  
Fax No. (416) 392 3821  
E-mail: [rmcphail@toronto.ca](mailto:rmcphail@toronto.ca)

## **SIGNATURE**

---

Gary Wright, Chief Planner & Executive Director  
City Planning Division