

Status of Proposed Acquisition of Lands at Finch Avenue West and Arrow Road by the Toronto Parking Authority

Date: November 8, 2016

To: City Council

From: City Manager

Wards: All

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

This report concerns a proposed or pending land acquisition by the City or one of its agencies or corporations.

SUMMARY

At its meeting of October 28, 2016, the Audit Committee requested that the City Manager report directly to City Council for its meeting on November 8, 2016, on the necessity and merits of proceeding with this transaction. This report provides City Council with further information respecting the current status of the transaction.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Manager recommends that:

1. City Council, in light of the information provided in this report, receive the report (October 24, 2016) of the Auditor-General for information.
2. City Council adopt the confidential recommendation contained in Confidential Attachment 1 to this report.
3. City Council direct that the confidential information contained in Confidential Attachment 1 remain confidential in its entirety as it relates to a proposed or pending land acquisition by the City or one of its agencies and corporations.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact arising from the recommendation in this report.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of March 31 and April 1, 2016, City Council adopted a report entitled "Allocation of the Public Realm Amount – Finch West LRT" including the following recommendation:

"5. City Council authorize and direct the Toronto Parking Authority, in support of the Public Realm Amount strategy set out in this report, to acquire a property located at the southeast corner of Finch Avenue West and Arrow Road (near Highway 400) for municipal parking and ancillary uses including proposed Bike Share Toronto infrastructure, and to permit construction of a possible gateway feature for the Emery Village Business Improvement Area. Acquisition will be on terms and conditions to be negotiated by the President, Toronto Parking Authority, at fair market value plus associated costs such as land transfer tax, title insurance and other fees, and approved by the Toronto Parking Authority Board. The City Solicitor is authorized to complete the purchase transaction, deliver any notices, pay any expenses and amend the closing and other dates, on such terms and conditions as the City Solicitor may determine." The purchase of this land forms part of a broader City Strategy; the Public Realm Strategy. The land being acquired is expected to be used for more than parking purposes. The recommendation passed by Council shows that the land is expected to be used for "municipal parking and other ancillary uses, including proposed Bike Share Toronto infrastructure, and to permit construction of a possible gateway feature for the Emery Village Business Improvement Area."

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.EX13.9>

At its meeting of October 28, 2016, the Audit Committee had before it a report (October 24, 2016) from the Auditor General entitled "Observations of a Land Acquisition at Finch Avenue West and Arrow Road by the Toronto Parking Authority". In its consideration of this item, the Committee requested the City Manager to report directly to City Council for its meeting on November 8, 2016, on the necessity and merits of proceeding with this transaction.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.AU7.14>

COMMENTS

Subsequent to the consideration of this matter by the Audit Committee, I have now received further information from Toronto Parking Authority staff respecting the status of this transaction.

I am providing further comments respecting this matter in the Confidential Attachment to this report.

Status of Transaction at Finch Avenue West and Arrow Road

It is my understanding, as set out in the report (October 24, 2016) of the Auditor-General that her current report focused on one aspect of this acquisition. However, there are several other matters still being reviewed in relation to this transaction and the Auditor General intends to provide a full report to the Board and to Council through the Audit Committee in 2017 when her review of this transaction is complete.

It is my intention to also provide a further report to Council as requested by Audit Committee at that time.

The Auditor-General and the City Solicitor were consulted in the preparation of this report and concur with the recommendations.

CONTACT

Fiona Murray, Director, Corporate Intergovernmental and Agency Relations, Strategic & Corporate Policy, Fiona.Murray@toronto.ca, 416.397.5214

Ward Earle, Director, Municipal Law, Legal Services, Ward.Earle@toronto.ca, 416.397.4058

SIGNATURE

Peter Wallace
City Manager

ATTACHMENTS

Confidential Attachment 1 - Status of Proposed Transaction at Finch Avenue West and Arrow Road