



Development Services Committee Meeting Agenda

Meeting No. 4 | March 27, 2025 | 9:00 AM | Live streamed

Members of the public have the option to attend either remotely via Zoom or in-person
in the Council Chamber at the Civic Centre

Members of the public can participate by:

1. VIEWING THE ONLINE LIVESTREAM:

Council meetings are video and audio streamed at: <https://pub-markham.escribemeetings.com/>

2. EMAILING A WRITTEN SUBMISSION:

Members of the public may submit written deputations by email to clerkspublic@markham.ca.

Written submissions must be received by 5:00 p.m. the day prior to the meeting.

If the deadline for written submission has passed, you may:

Email your written submission directly to [Members of Council](#); or

Make a deputation at the meeting by completing and submitting an online [Request to Speak Form](#)

If the deadline for written submission has passed **and** Council has finished debate on the item at the meeting, you may email your written submission directly to [Members of Council](#).

3. REQUEST TO SPEAK / DEPUTATION:

Members of the public who wish to make a deputation, please register prior to the start of the meeting by:

Completing an online [Request to Speak Form](#), or,

E-mail clerkspublic@markham.ca providing full name, contact information and item they wish to speak on.

If you do not have access to email, contact the Clerk's office at **905-479-7760** on the day of the meeting.

*If Council or Committee has finished debate at the meeting on the item, you may email your written submission directly to [Members of Council](#).

The list of [Members of Council is available online at this link](#).

Alternate formats for this document are available upon request.

Closed captioning during the video stream may be turned on by clicking the [cc] icon located at the lower right corner of the video screen.

**Note: As per Section 7.1(h) of the Council Procedural By-Law,
Council will take a ten minute recess after two hours have passed since the last break.**

Information Page

Development Services Committee Members: All Members of Council

Planning - Development and Policy Matters

Chair: Regional Councillor Jim Jones

Vice Chair: Regional Councillor Joe Li

(Development Services Committee Public Statutory Meetings - Chair: Regional Councillor Joe Li)

Engineering - Transportation & Infrastructure Matters

Chair: Councillor Karen Rea

Vice Chair: Councillor Reid McAlpine

Culture & Economic Development Matters

Chair: Regional Councillor Alan Ho

Vice Chair: Councillor Amanda Collucci

Development Services meetings are live video and audio streamed on the City's website.

Alternate formats for this document are available upon request.

Consent Items: All matters listed under the consent agenda are considered to be routine and are recommended for approval by the department. They may be enacted on one motion, or any item may be discussed if a member so requests.

Please Note: The times listed on this agenda are approximate and may vary; Council may, at its discretion, alter the order of the agenda items.

**Development Services Committee is scheduled to recess for lunch from
approximately 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM**

**Note: As per the Council Procedural By-Law, Section 7.1 (h)
Development Services Committee will take a 10 minute recess after two hours
have passed since the last break.**



Development Services Committee Meeting Agenda

Meeting Number: 4
April 8, 2025, 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Live streamed

Please bring this Development Services Committee Agenda to the Council meeting on April 22, 2025.

Pages

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We begin today by acknowledging the traditional territories of Indigenous peoples and their commitment to stewardship of the land. We acknowledge the communities in circle. The North, West, South and Eastern directions, and Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat, Anishnabeg, Seneca, Chippewa, and the Mississaugas of the Credit peoples. We share the responsibility with the caretakers of this land to ensure the dish is never empty and to restore relationships that are based on peace, friendship, and trust. We are committed to reconciliation, partnership and enhanced understanding.

2. **DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

3. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

4. **PRESENTATIONS**

4.1 **PRESENTATION OF SERVICE AWARDS (12.2.6)**

The Development Services Committee recognizes the following members of staff:

Chief Administrative Office - Fire & Emergency Services

Markian Chorostil, Firefighter, Fire & Emergency Services, 15 years
Will Andrews, Firefighter, Fire & Emergency Services, 10 years
Luke Barron, Firefighter, Fire & Emergency Services, 10 years
Mark Holland, Firefighter, Fire & Emergency Services, 10 years
Rafal Kosmowski, Firefighter, Fire & Emergency Services, 10 years

Jesse Longo, Firefighter, Fire & Emergency Services, 10 years
 Anthony Melino, Firefighter, Fire & Emergency Services, 10 years
 Meghan Stonham, Firefighter, Fire & Emergency Services, 10 years
 Horacio Pizzanelli, Firefighter, Fire & Emergency Services, 10 years
 Brian Roblin, Firefighter, Fire & Emergency Services, 10 years
 Trevor Welch, Firefighter, Fire & Emergency Services, 10 years
 Mathew White, Firefighter, Fire & Emergency Services, 10 years

Community Services Commission

Paul Pizzulo, Labourer/Driver, Operations, 15 years

Corporate Services Commission

Ramini Sivananthan, Supervisor, Cash Control, Financial Services, 30 years
 Abigail Whiting, Letters of Credit Administrator, Financial Services, 25 years
 Kishor Soneji, Manager, Financial Reporting, Financial Services, 20 years
 Melody Chan, Municipal Law Enforcement Officer II, By-Law & Regulatory Services, 10 years
 Barry Hails, Municipal Law Enforcement Officer II, By-Law & Regulatory Services, 10 years
 Inessa Sagitova, Administrative Assistant, Sustainability & Asset Management, 10 years

Development Services Commission

Weiping Li, Engineer, Building, Building Standards, 10 years

4.2 CANADA PUBLIC TRANSIT FUND UPDATE: BUS RAPID TRANSIT ALONG HIGHWAY 7 EAST (13.5) 10

Note: Paul Jankowski, President, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation will be presenting.

1. That the presentation titled “Canada Public Transit Fund Update: Bus Rapid Transit along Highway 7 East” be received for information.

5. DEPUTATIONS

6. COMMUNICATIONS

7. PETITIONS

8. CONSENT REPORTS - DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY MATTERS

8.1 ROUGE RIVER WATERSHED PLAN UPDATE (10.8) 21

M. Head, ext. 2005

1. That the report entitled “Rouge River Watershed Plan Update”, be received; and further,
2. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

8.2 RECOMMENDATION REPORT – DESIGNATION OF PRIORITY PROPERTIES – PHASE XVI (16.11.3)

27

E. Manning, ext. 2296

1. That the Staff report, dated April 8, 2025, titled, "RECOMMENDATION REPORT, Designation of Priority Properties – Phase XVI", be received; and,
2. That the June 14, 2023, recommendation from the Heritage Markham Committee, in support of the designation of the following properties under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act (in accordance with Appendix ‘B’), be received as information:
 - 10224 Highway 48 (Ward 6): “Christian and Nancy Hoover House”
 - 10388 Highway 48 (Ward 6): “Jesse and Emma Byer House”
 - 10535 & 10537 McCowan Road (Ward 6): “Joseph & Mary Steckley Houses”; and,
3. That Council state its intention to designate 10224 Highway 48 (Ward 6) under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act in recognition of its cultural heritage significance; and,
4. That Council state its intention to designate 10388 Highway 48 (Ward 6) under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act in recognition of its cultural heritage significance; and,
5. That Council state its intention to designate 10535 & 10537 McCowan Road (Ward 6) under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act in recognition of its cultural heritage significance; and,
6. That if there are no objections to the designation in accordance with the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act, the Clerk’s Department be authorized to place a designation by-law before Council for adoption; and,
7. That if there are any objections in accordance with the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act, the matter return to Council for further consideration; and further,

8. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

**8.3 CYCLING AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CPAC)
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 20, 2025 (16.34)**

69

That the minutes of the Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (CPAC) meeting held February 20, 2025, be received for information purposes.

Please note that the Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee is putting forward the following recommendations for the Committee's consideration:

Note: Committee has the option to endorse, amend, refer to staff or receive for information the following recommendations from the February 20, 2025, Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting:

WHEREAS when weather allows, Markham residents benefit from an extensive system of parks and green spaces, and pathways through those parks and green spaces; and,

WHEREAS most of our park assets are not accessible for as many as 4 months a year due to winter weather; and,

WHEREAS outdoor winter activity should be encouraged to address the physical and mental health of residents; and,

WHEREAS City Council has endorsed an Active Transportation Master Plan (ATMP) in 2021 that recommends pedestrian and cycling network capital improvements to encourage people of all ages and abilities to walk and cycle; and,

WHEREAS the ATMP includes a recommendation on “Implement a pilot project to provide winter maintenance of a cycling spine network to evaluate costs and uptake; and,

WHEREAS the City of Markham implemented the winter maintenance pilot project for some paved park pathways since 2021, and provided a feasibility analysis (See appendix 1, staff report May 10, 2021, and appendix 2, staff memorandum July 13. 2021); and,

WHEREAS the 2021 reports analysed paving and maintaining all park pathways and at that time the cost was determined by council to be excessive; and,

WHEREAS the council-endorsed Greenprint Sustainability Plan suggests aggressive measures to reduce the environmental impact of city activities; and,

WHEREAS the council-endorsed Markham Municipal Energy Plan includes a commitment to net zero emissions by 2050; and,

WHEREAS Markham is currently developing the Vision Zero Road Safety Plan, School Zones Safety Guide and the Transportation Master Plan, all of which would have a variety of means to provide a safer walking and cycling network; and,

WHEREAS the city is committed to the development of “complete communities” such that extensive walking facilities are provided and walking is encouraged for short trips; and,

WHEREAS walking facilities of all types should be considered as part of the city’s transportation network 365 days a year, as are roads; and,

WHEREAS the current service level includes ploughing only a limited number of already-paved pathways that do not constitute an integrated network designed to serve significant destinations; and,

WHEREAS networked transportation systems that serve destinations are typically more heavily used than non-networked transportation assets, such as dead-end streets; and,

WHEREAS park and open space pathways often provide more direct routes to destinations than the ploughed sidewalk network; and,

WHEREAS the city sponsors an Active School Travel program to encourage walking to and from schools, while approximately 40% of the school year (ten months between September to June) is in the winter (four months between December and March); and,

WHEREAS pathways linking ploughed city sidewalks to school yards are generally not ploughed; and,

WHEREAS unploughed park pathways are often heavily used but pose a safety risk due to icing and uneven surfaces; and,

WHEREAS many local streets in mature neighbourhoods do not have sidewalks that might otherwise be ploughed in the winter; and,

Therefore, now be it resolved:

That the Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (CPAC) recommends that Markham Council direct staff to commission a feasibility study taking into consideration the engineering, operations and financial aspects with the aim of identifying a network of existing unpaved pathways to be paved and/or ploughed through parks and green spaces that links destinations, especially those frequented by children and youths throughout the city, such as public and secondary schools, community centres, shopping centres, and all roads with transit stops; and,

That it is not recommended that all existing unploughed pathways be paved and ploughed; only those identified in the feasibility study that are considered part of a complete active transportation network serving appropriate destinations, should be considered for paving and ploughing; and,

That CPAC recommends that the City work continue with the school boards to address unploughed pathways between ploughed city facilities and school yards; and,

That CPAC recommends that Markham Council direct staff to include a 2026 capital budget submission to undertake the feasibility study; and,

That CPAC recommends that staff report back to Markham Council in 2027 on the findings and recommendations of the feasibility study, and that staff update the Markham Active Transportation Master Plan to include the identified existing unpaved pathways as part of a prioritized multi-year capital implementation program; and further,

That CPAC recommends to Markham Council that this motion be shared with the directors and all trustees of the York Region District School Board and the York Catholic District School Board.

9. REGULAR REPORTS - DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY MATTERS

9.1 CANADA PUBLIC TRANSIT FUND – HOUSING SUPPLY AND AFFORDABILITY ACTION PLAN, JOINT GRANT SUBMISSION FOR HIGHWAY 7 EAST BUS RAPID TRANSIT (10.0)

79

J. Yeh, ext. 7922

1. That the April 8, 2025, report titled, “Canada Public Transit Fund – Housing Supply and Affordability Action Plan, Joint Grant Submission for Highway 7 East Bus Rapid Transit”, be received; and,
2. That City Staff continue to work with York Region Rapid Transit Corporation in refining the justification for the Highway 7 East Bus Rapid Transit Corridor in support of the Ministry of Transportation Integrated Regional Plan submission under the Canada Public Transit Fund; and further,
3. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

10. REGULAR REPORTS - CULTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

10.1 CELEBRATE MARKHAM GRANT PROGRAM 2025-2026 – MAY 1, 2025 – MARCH 31, 2026 – FUNDING APPROVALS (10.16)

91

A. Baldwin ext. 2103/ J. Chan, ext. 2073 / C. Colangelo, ext. 2277

1. That the report titled, “Celebrate Markham Grant Program 2025-2026 – May 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026 – Funding Approvals” be received; and,
2. That Council approve the recommendations of the Interdepartmental Staff Review Committee in Attachment 1, which includes 112 Celebrate Markham applicants for community-led events and programs, totaling \$369,300; and,
3. That Council approve \$105,500 for City-led events and programs; and,
4. That Council approve \$30,000 for the Markham Arts Council annual programs and activities; and,
5. That Staff be authorized and directed to manage the allocation of remaining incremental funding of \$52,500 that was approved as part of Budget 2025 (total incremental funding of \$92,500 less \$40,000 allocated to the four major festivals = \$52,500) annually based on the funding requirements for both applications and City-led events in a given year; and,
6. That Council approve changes to Celebrate Markham financial procedures and reporting requirements noted in this report, and authorize City Staff to identify and implement further changes to streamline program administration as approved by the City Treasurer; and,
7. That the unused Celebrate Markham Community Grant Program funding of \$42,300 from the 2024-2025 Celebrate Markham funding stream be carried forward for the 2025-2026 Celebrate Markham funding stream; and,
8. That any grant funding that was previously approved but unclaimed by the applicant up to three months after the funding cycle ends (i.e., by June 30th) be deemed cancelled, and the unclaimed but approved funding be retained in the Celebrate Markham funding pool for consideration for future applicants and City-led events; and,
9. That funding disbursed under Celebrate Markham be conditional on recipients’ adherence to all program requirements, including financial reporting and due diligence requirements; and further,
10. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

11. MOTIONS

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

13. NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

As per Section 2 of the Council Procedural By-Law, "New/Other Business would generally apply to an item that is to be added to the Agenda due to an urgent statutory time requirement, or an emergency, or time sensitivity".

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

15. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

That, in accordance with Section 239 (2) of the Municipal Act, Development Services Committee resolve into a confidential session to discuss the following matters:

15.1 DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY MATTERS

- 15.1.1 OLT APPEAL BY NEWDEV INVESTMENTS LTD. AND 1375920, ONTARIO LIMITED OF THE OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT, ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT, AND SITE PLAN APPLICATIONS AT 5305 AND 5307 HIGHWAY 7 EAST (WARD 4) (10.3, 10.5, 10.6)

(LITIGATION OR POTENTIAL LITIGATION, INCLUDING MATTERS BEFORE ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNALS, AFFECTING THE MUNICIPALITY OR LOCAL BOARD;) [MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001, Section 239 (2) (e)]

- 15.1.2 OLT APPEAL BY TERRABONA 7115 YONGE LTD. OF THE OFFICIAL, PLAN AND ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT APPLICATIONS AT 7115, YONGE STREET AND 8 TO 14 GRANDVIEW AVENUE (WARD 1) (10.3, 10.5)

(LITIGATION OR POTENTIAL LITIGATION, INCLUDING MATTERS BEFORE ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNALS, AFFECTING THE MUNICIPALITY OR LOCAL BOARD;) [MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001, Section 239 (2) (e)]

- 15.1.3 OLT APPEALS BY GRMADA HOLDINGS INC. OF THE OFFICIAL PLAN AND ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT APPLICATIONS AT 7509 AND 7529 YONGE STREET (WARD 1) (10.3, 10.5)

(LITIGATION OR POTENTIAL LITIGATION, INCLUDING MATTERS BEFORE ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNALS, AFFECTING THE MUNICIPALITY OR LOCAL BOARD;) [MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001, Section 239 (2) (e)]

16. ADJOURNMENT

Canada Public Transit Fund Update: Bus Rapid Transit along Highway 7 East

City of Markham Council – April 8, 2025

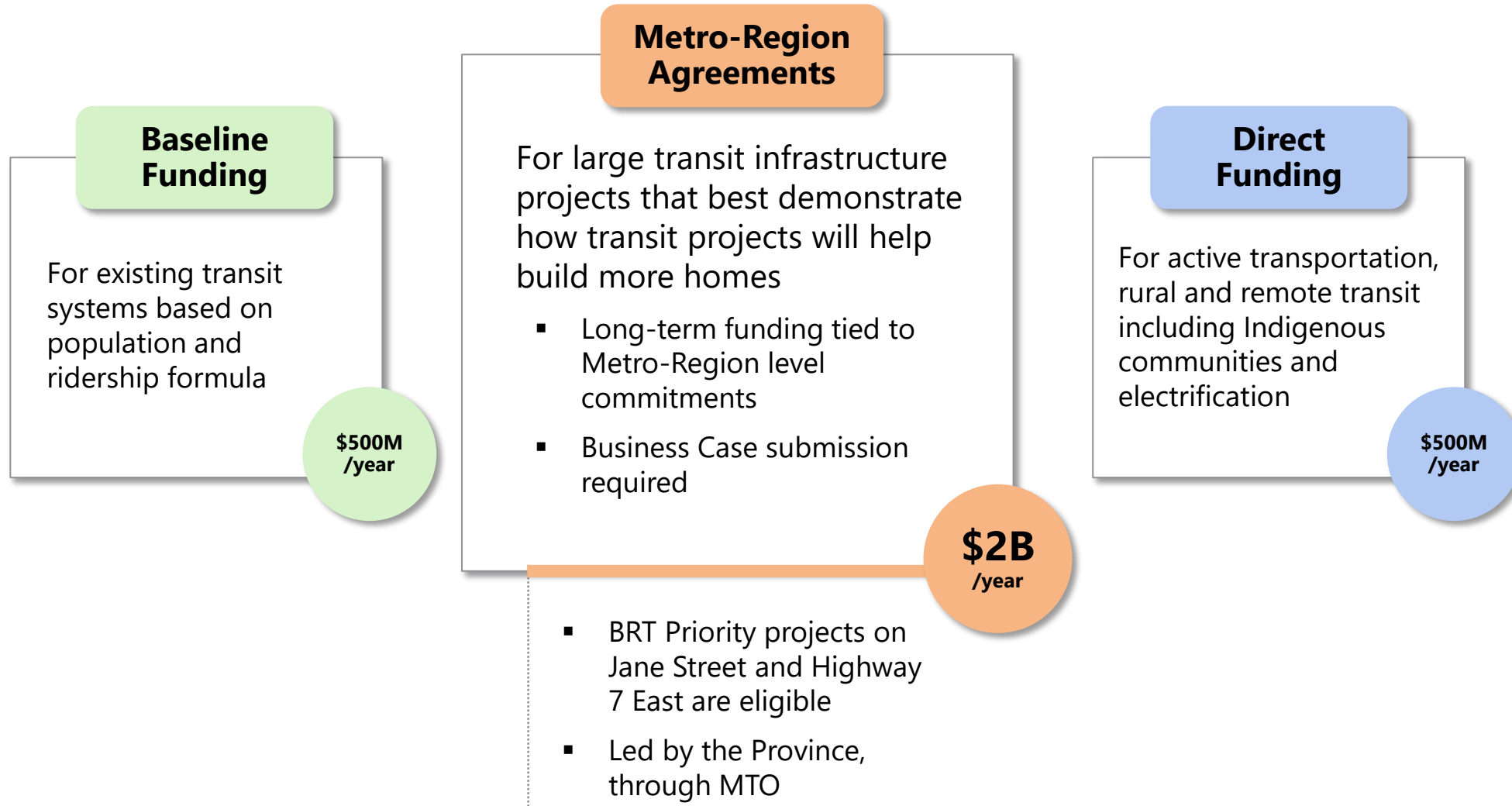


Today's Agenda

- 1. Canada Public Transit Fund**
- 2. Priority BRT Corridors**
- 3. Development Context**
- 4. Collective Mission**



Canada Public Transit Fund: Program Approach





Canada Public Transit Fund: Core Objectives of Funding

Increase use of public transit & active transportation relative to car travel

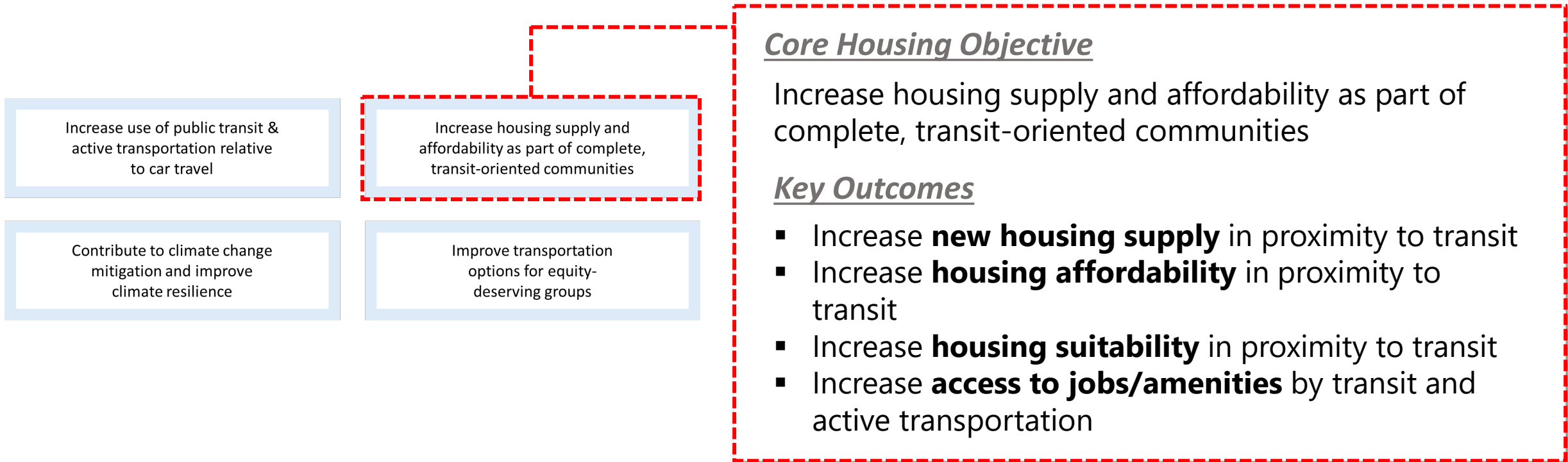
Increase housing supply and affordability as part of complete, transit-oriented communities

Contribute to climate change mitigation and improve climate resilience

Improve transportation options for equity-deserving groups



Canada Public Transit Fund: Core Objectives of Funding



GGH Metro-Region Agreement Overview

- MTO will lead the development of the GGH MRA following the stages below
- Project funding could flow as early as April 2026
- Updated timing is expected to be communicated to municipalities in the coming weeks



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

- ✓ **GGH Region defined**
- ✓ **MTO letters sent**
- ✓ **1:1 meetings conducted with all municipalities**
- ✓ **Draft EOI shared**
- ✓ **Municipal input for EOI and planning funding**
- EOI submitted

INTEGRATED REGIONAL PLAN

- Establish TOR for Metro-Region Table
- Identify priority projects for 10-year investment plan
- Establish region-wide targets for housing supply, transit ridership, and emissions reductions

METRO-REGION AGREEMENT

- MTO to lead negotiations with federal government and secure funding for MRA
- Target formal signatures on MRA, including funding commitments from all partners, by winter 2026

PROJECT FUNDING APPLICATION

- Metro-region signatories bring forward funding requests for projects identified in the IRP
- Funding applications reviewed and assessed by HICC

CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT AND FUNDING TRANSFER

- Project-specific contribution agreements developed for recipients implementing projects
- MTO works with Metrolinx and municipal partners to support the project-level approval process and transfer of funds



Canada Public Transit Fund: Highway 7 Funding Submission Business Case

**City of
Markham**



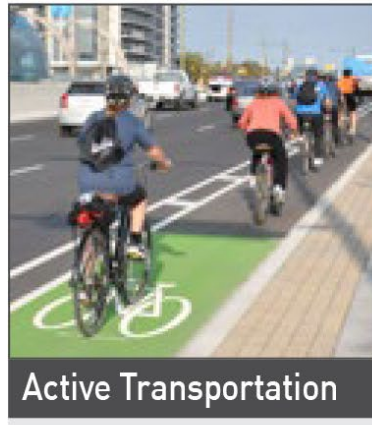
**York Region /
YRRTC**



WORKING TOGETHER = SUCCESS IN FUNDING PURSUIT

Highway 7 East BRT

- 13.5 km along:
 - Markham Centre between Birchmount Road & Kennedy Road; and
 - Highway 7 East between Kennedy Road & York-Durham Line
- Population & Employment:
 - Active Development Applications: 34,000+ units
 - By 2051:
 - 122,000+ people
 - 30,000+ jobs



Active Transportation

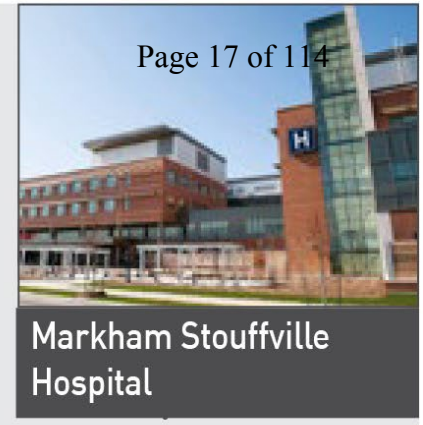
DAILY PASSENGER TRIPS

Today: **6,700**

2035: **10,100+**



Cornell Bus Terminal



Markham Stouffville Hospital



Viva rapidway



YMCA



Markham PanAm Centre



York University Markham Campus

Highway 7 East BRT – Development Context



Map is for visual representation only and is subject to change. Dated: November 2024

Highway 7 East BRT Corridor – Enterprise/Kennedy Development Applications & Growth Statistics



Map is for visual representation only and is subject to change. Dated: November 2024

2025-04-08

Highway 7 East BRT Corridor – Kennedy to Cornell Development Applications & Growth Statistics

Collective Mission:

We need successful applications to the ***Canada Public Transit Fund Metro-Region Agreement Stream***.

Together, we must build the best cases to secure critical funding for the Jane Street and Highway 7 East BRT projects.

Commitments:

- Cities of Vaughan and Markham – achieving Housing Supply & Affordability targets
- York Region – delivering the transit infrastructure

THANK YOU



@rapidtransitYR



Report to: Development Services Committee

Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

SUBJECT: Rouge River Watershed Plan Update

PREPARED BY: Mark Head, Manager, Natural Heritage, Ext. 2005

REVIEWED BY: John Yeh, Acting Senior Manager, Policy and Research,
Ext. 7922

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) That the report entitled “Rouge River Watershed Plan Update”, be received; and,
- 2) That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the proposed scope of work, process and timing for the Rouge River Watershed Plan Update (RRWP) which is being led by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA).

The RRWP will be launched in 2025 to update and replace the current watershed plan that was prepared in 2007. The RRWP will be updated through a multi-year process with participation of partner municipalities, Williams Treaties First Nations, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Rouge National Urban Park.

BACKGROUND:

A watershed plan is a key guiding document that helps understand the current and potential future environmental conditions of a watershed and the actions needed to protect, enhance and restore watershed health. Watershed planning looks at all land drained by a river and recognizes that human activities in one part of the watershed may have downstream or cumulative impacts on other parts including lands in a different municipality. Watershed plans are not statutory documents but are required by the Province to guide land use, infrastructure and other environmental management decisions and initiatives.

The Rouge River watershed is 336 km² in extent, encompassing almost 80 percent of the City of Markham (see Figure 1 attached). The Watershed drains lands from the Oak Ridges Moraine to Lake Ontario through the Rouge River. Tributaries of the Rouge include Beaver Creek, Berczy Creek, Bruce Creek, Eckardt Creek, Robinson Creek and the Little Rouge Creek. Currently, the watershed is 25% natural, 32% rural, and 43% urban. About 288,318 residents in Markham live in the watershed.

Watershed planning direction is provided in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, Greenbelt Plan and Provincial Planning Statement. Provincial direction requires large and fast-growing municipalities, including the City of Markham, to undertake watershed

planning to inform land use and infrastructure planning decisions. The City of Markham recognizes watershed planning and its ecosystem-based approach to resource management as an important tool for guiding planning, infrastructure, restoration and climate adaptation actions needed to protect water and land resources and to help mitigate/reduce natural hazard risks.

DISCUSSION:

Purpose and Scope of the Review:

The RRWP will be based on an integrated, systems approach to understand current and future watershed conditions and identify actions to protect, enhance and restore watershed health.

The RRWP will:

- Improve understanding of watershed conditions and ecosystems affected by land use and climate change; and
- Identify priority actions to protect, restore, and enhance watershed health, safety, and resilience.

Key Steps and Timing:

The RRWP will be developed over a three-year period in four stages following TRCA's watershed planning framework. Stage 1 is currently underway and Stages 2, 3 and 4 will be completed in 2025, 2026 and 2027, respectively. The final plan will be provided for endorsement in 2027/2028. The four stages are illustrated in the figure below:

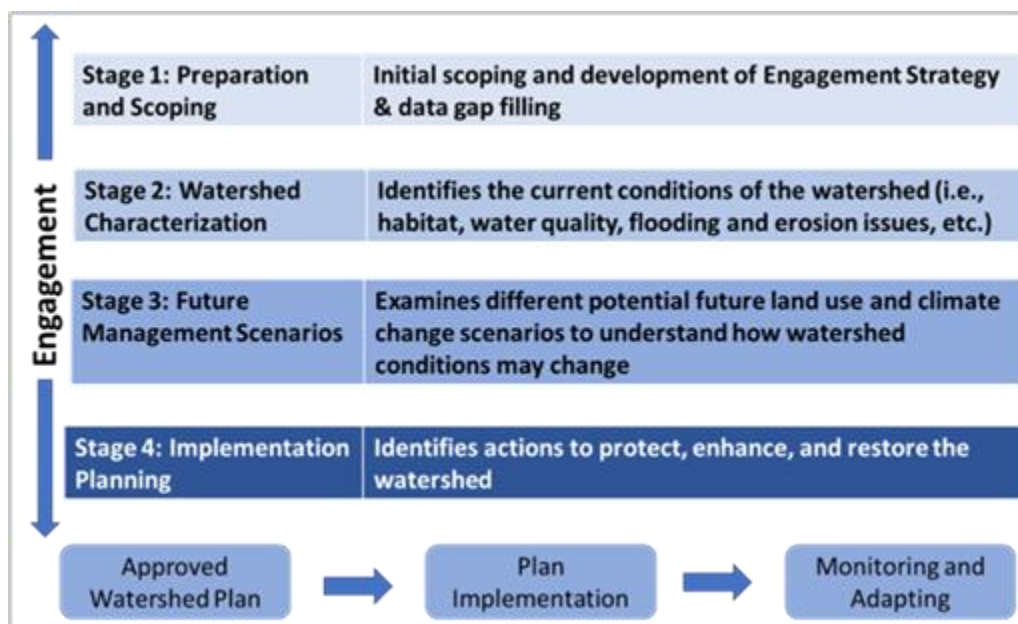


Figure 2: Overview of the Integrated Watershed Planning Process

The scope of work will assess watershed conditions for four key components of watershed health including natural hazards for flooding and erosion risks, natural heritage, water resources and water quality in the context of both land use change and climate change. Future growth scenarios with and without climate projections will be evaluated to fully understand how these variables impact watershed health and how management actions can improve or address the health, safety and resilience of the watershed.

Benefits to Markham:

The RRWP will provide an integrated, science-based understanding of the key components of watershed health with recommendations for coordinated implementation across municipal jurisdictions. The information provided on current and future conditions affecting watershed health will ensure that priority actions can be identified and implemented for the health, safety, and resilience of the watershed and its communities within Markham and beyond.

Key benefits of the watershed plan are highlighted below:

- Provides support for strategic plans including Markham's Strategic Plan, Official Plan, Greenprint Sustainability Plan, and Urban Forest Management Plan (underway).
- Addresses Provincial policy requirements requiring municipalities to complete watershed plans to inform land use and infrastructure planning decisions.
- Informs climate adaptation and resilience planning for land use, infrastructure, stormwater and water/wastewater planning, flood mitigation, urban forest planning, and the effectiveness of nature-based solutions, and other mitigation measures.
- Identifies priorities for ecosystem restoration planning and management.
- Provides baseline information, technical modelling and recommendations to support future settlement area expansion decision making and more detailed subwatershed and secondary planning level studies due to the scalable nature of the information that will be collected.

The final RRWP and the data associated with it will help inform various TRCA and municipal initiatives including land use and infrastructure planning, stormwater management (including upcoming CLI ECA-related monitoring), erosion and flooding risk mitigation, climate adaptation, and ecosystem restoration and management.

Consultation and Next Steps:

Official launch of the RRWP is planned in Q2 2025 with the formation of a Steering Committee to confirm the proposed project scope and an engagement strategy. Broader stakeholder and public consultation will follow later in the process. The process will be informed by input and feedback from all partner municipalities across administrative

boundaries, First Nations and Indigenous communities, stakeholders, and the public through a range of engagement activities including through social media, virtual engagements, regular update notifications and a dedicated project webpage. Participating members on the Steering Committee will include City of Markham Planning and Engineering staff representatives to provide technical feedback and coordinate reporting with Council, as needed.

TRCA will be providing regular notifications and updates to all municipal Councillors (within the watershed boundaries) through TRCA's Government and Community Relations Team and Clerk's Office including notifications about watershed plan kick-off, major milestones and engagement at various stages, and for consultation on the draft and final watershed plans.

TRCA is also planning to host a watershed tour after the draft plan is released to highlight partnerships and key messages from the watershed plan. Municipal Councillors, TRCA Board members, senior level municipal staff, TRCA project and senior leadership staff, and Steering Committee members will be invited to attend this event.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

This report has no financial impact to the Operating Budget or Life Cycle Reserve Study. The updating of the RRWP is funded through TRCA's Watershed Planning and Reporting Program capital budget, which is approved by York Region and the City of Toronto. If enhancements to the project scope beyond what can be supported by TRCA's current capital funds are recommended during finalization of the work plan by the Steering Committee, these will be subject to future TRCA budget processes or supplementary funding contributions provided by the participating municipalities. Additional funding contributions from the City of Markham may be identified subject to finalization of the work plan and put forth for consideration during the capital budget process.

HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The RRWP update supports direction in Building Markham's Future Together Goal 3 to enhance the natural environment through sustainable and integrated planning and infrastructure management. The project supports several City planning and infrastructure initiatives including the City's stormwater management program and implementation of the City of Markham Official Plan direction for watershed planning. The work will also provide analysis and recommendations to support the City of Markham Official Plan Review's growth management, water resources and climate change components.

BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

Financial Services, Engineering, Environmental Services and Planning staff were consulted in the preparation of this report.

RECOMMENDED BY:

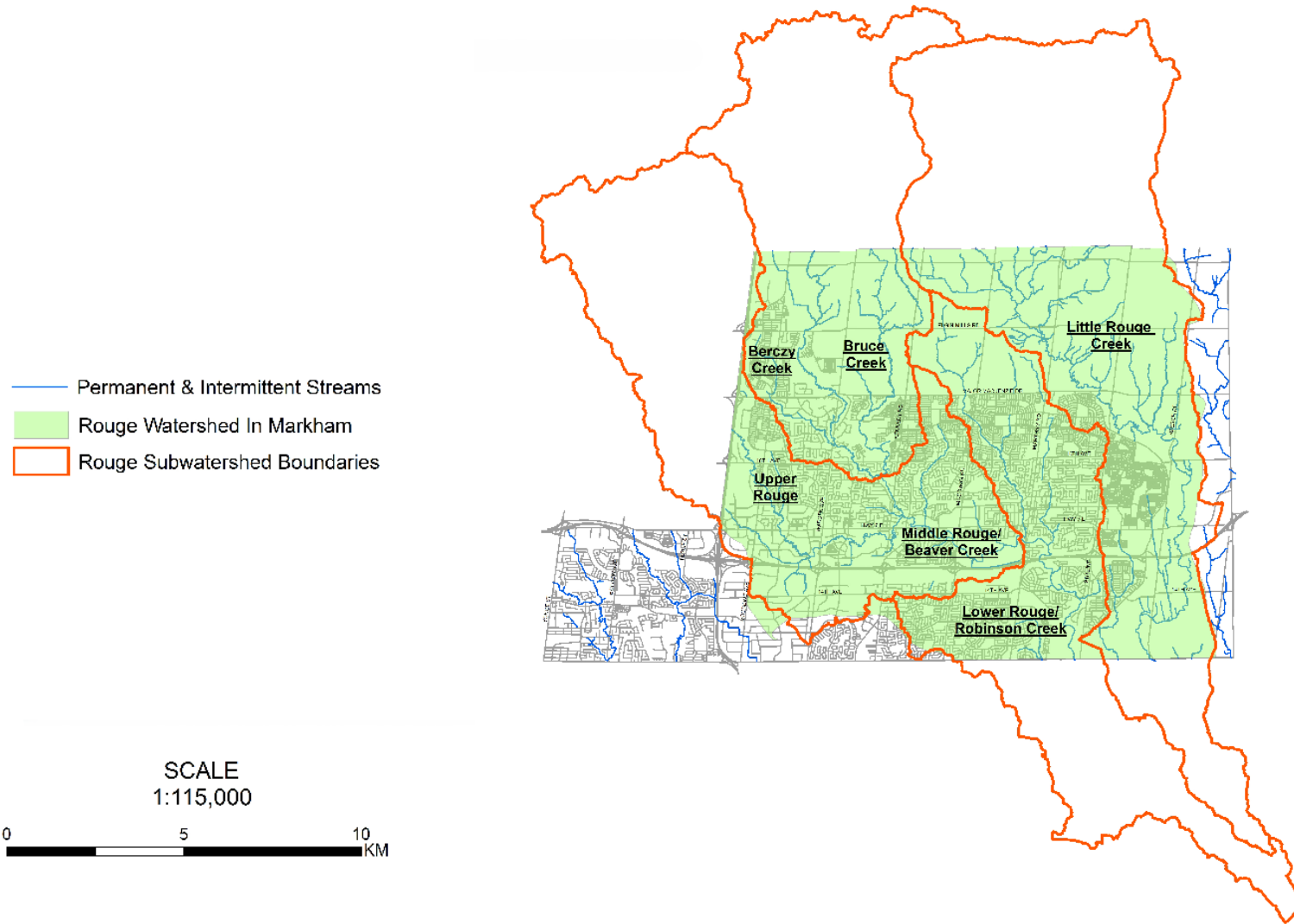
Giulio Cescato, RPP, MCIP
Director, Planning and Urban Design

Arvin Prasad, RPP, MCIP
Commissioner, Development Services

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – Map of the Rouge River Watershed Boundaries in Markham

Rouge River Watershed – Markham Context





Report to: Development Services Committee

Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION REPORT
Designation of Priority Properties – Phase XVI

PREPARED BY: Evan Manning, Senior Heritage Planner, ext. 2296

REVIEWED BY: Regan Hutcheson, Manager of Heritage Planning, ext. 2080

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) THAT the Staff report, dated April 8, 2025, titled, "RECOMMENDATION REPORT, Designation of Priority Properties – Phase XVI", be received;
- 2) THAT the June 14, 2023, recommendation from the Heritage Markham Committee, in support of the designation of the following properties under Part IV, Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (in accordance with Appendix 'B'), be received as information:
 - 10224 Highway 48 (Ward 6): "Christian and Nancy Hoover House"
 - 10388 Highway 48 (Ward 6): "Jesse and Emma Byer House"
 - 10535 & 10537 McCowan Road (Ward 6): "Joseph & Mary Steckley Houses"
- 3) THAT Council state its intention to designate 10224 Highway 48 (Ward 6) under Part IV, Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* in recognition of its cultural heritage significance;
- 4) THAT Council state its intention to designate 10388 Highway 48 (Ward 6) under Part IV, Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* in recognition of its cultural heritage significance;
- 5) THAT Council state its intention to designate 10535 & 10537 McCowan Road (Ward 6) under Part IV, Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* in recognition of its cultural heritage significance;
- 6) THAT if there are no objections to the designation in accordance with the provisions of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, the Clerk's Department be authorized to place a designation by-law before Council for adoption;
- 7) THAT if there are any objections in accordance with the provisions of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, the matter return to Council for further consideration;
- 8) AND THAT Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

PURPOSE:

This report provides information on the sixteenth batch of "listed" properties recommended for designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (the "Act") originally in response to Bill 23, in accordance with the May 3, 2023, Staff report adopted by Council and noted in the recommendations of this report.

BACKGROUND:

Markham has a robust Heritage Register that includes both listed and designated properties

There are currently 1718 properties included on the *City of Markham's Register of Properties of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest* (the "Register"). These include a mixture of individually-recognized heritage

properties and those contained within the city's four Heritage Conservation Districts ("HCD") located in Thornhill, Buttonville, Unionville, and Markham Village.

Individually-recognized heritage properties consist of both "listed" properties and those designated under Part IV of the Act (HCDs are designated under Part V of the Act). While Part IV-designated properties are municipally-recognized as significant cultural heritage resources, listing a property under Section 27(3) of the Act does not necessarily mean that the property is considered a significant cultural heritage resource. Rather it provides a mechanism for the municipality to be alerted of any alteration or demolition application for the property and time (60 days) for evaluation of the property for potential designation under Part IV of the Act. Once designated, the City has the authority to prevent demolition or alterations that would adversely impact the cultural heritage value of the property. These protections are not available to the City for listed properties. At the start of 2023, there were 316 listed properties on the Register.

Bill 23 has implications for the conservation of properties "listed" on municipal Heritage Registers

On November 28, 2022, Bill 23 (*More Homes Built Faster Act*), received Royal Assent. Section 6 of the legislation included amendments to the Act that requires all listed properties on a municipal heritage register to be either designated within a two-year period beginning on January 1, 2023, or be removed from the register. Should a listed property be removed as a result of this deadline, it cannot be "re-listed" for a five-year period. Further, municipalities will not be permitted to issue a notice of intention to designate a property under Part IV of the Act unless the property was already listed on a municipal register at the time a *Planning Act* application is submitted (i.e., Official Plan, Zoning By-Law amendment and/or Draft Plan of Subdivision).

Bill 200 extended the timeline for designation of properties "listed" on municipal Heritage Registers

On June 6, 2024, Bill 200 (*Homeowner Protection Act*) received Royal Assent. Schedule 2 of Bill 200 amends the Act by extending the timeframe for municipalities to review "listed properties included in their heritage registries as of December 31, 2022. Municipalities now have until January 1, 2027, to issue a notice of intention to designate these properties before they must be removed from the register. Bill 200 has also introduced new rules clarifying how a municipality's voluntary removal of a listed property from its register before June 6, 2024, impacts its ability to relist the property.

Should a property not be designated prior to the aforementioned deadline and be removed from the register, a municipality would have no legal mechanism to deny a demolition or alteration request. The same applies to properties that are not listed at the time a *Planning Act* application is submitted as they would not be eligible for designation under the Act.

Properties are to be assessed using Provincial Designation Criteria

Ontario Regulation 9/06, as amended, ("O.Reg. 9/06") prescribes criteria for determining a property's cultural heritage value or interest for the purpose of designation. The regulation provides an objective base for the determination and evaluation of resources of cultural heritage value, and ensures the comprehensive, and consistent assessment of value by all Ontario municipalities. Municipal councils are permitted to designate a property to be of cultural heritage value or interest if the property meets two or more of the prescribed criteria (excerpted from O.Reg. 9/06):

1. *The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.*

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2. *The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.*
 3. *The property has design value or physical value because it demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement*
 4. *The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.*
 5. *The property has historical value or associative value because it yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture.*
 6. *The property has historical value or associative value because it demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community.*
 7. *The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.*
 8. *The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.*
 9. *The property has contextual value because it is a landmark.*

OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:

The protection and preservation of heritage resources is consistent with City policies

Markham's Official Plan, 2014, contains cultural heritage policies related to the protection and conservation of heritage resources that are often a fragile gift from past generations. They are not a renewable resource, and once lost, are gone forever. Markham understands the importance of safeguarding its cultural heritage resources and uses a number of mechanisms to protect them. Council's policy recognizes their significance by designating individual properties under the Act to ensure that the cultural heritage values and heritage attributes are addressed and protected.

Provincial planning policies support designation

The new Provincial Planning Statement (PPS) issued under Section 3 of the *Planning Act* came into effect October 20, 2024, and replaces the Provincial Policy Statement, 2020. The PPS (2024) includes cultural heritage policies that indicate protected heritage property, which may contain built heritage resources or cultural heritage landscapes, shall be conserved. Designation provides a mechanism to achieve the necessary protection.

Designation acknowledges the importance of a cultural heritage resource

Designation signifies to an owner and the broader community that the property contains a significant resource that is important to the community. Designation does not restrict the use of the property or compel restoration. However, it does require an owner to seek approval for property alterations that are likely to affect the heritage attributes described in the designation by-law. Council can also prevent, rather than just delay, the demolition of a resource on a designated heritage property.

Culturally significant "listed" properties for Part IV designation have been identified

As described in the Staff report adopted by Council on May 3, 2023, Heritage Section staff have developed a matrix consisting of four criteria against which all listed properties have been evaluated to determine their degree of cultural heritage significance. This review found 52 "listed" properties ranked as "High", 78 ranked as "Medium", and 28 ranked as "Low" in terms of the cultural heritage value based on the evaluation

criteria. Staff have prioritized those properties ranked as “High” and “Medium” for designation consideration under Part IV of the Act.

Staff propose to bring forward approximately 3-5 designation recommendations for Council consideration at any one time. The three heritage properties identified in this report constitute the sixteenth phase of recommended designations that have been thoroughly researched and evaluated using O.Reg. 9/06. Staff determined that those properties merit designation under the Act for their physical/design, historical/associative, and/or contextual value (refer to Appendix ‘A’ for images of the properties).

Statements of Cultural Heritage Value of Interest have been prepared in accordance with Section 29(8) of the Act

These Statements of Significance include a description of the cultural heritage significance of the property and a list of heritage attributes that embody this significance. This provides clarity to both the City and the property owner as to which elements of the property should be conserved. Note that Part IV designation does not prevent future alterations to a property, but rather provides a guide to determine if the alterations would adversely impact the heritage significance of the property (refer to Appendix ‘C’). The full research report prepared for each property included as Appendix ‘D’.

Heritage Markham (the “Committee”) supports the designations

As per the Section 29(2) of the Act, review of proposed Part IV designations must be undertaken by a municipal heritage committee (where established) prior to consideration by Council. On June 14, 2023, the Committee reviewed the listed properties evaluated for designation by Staff and supported proceeding with designation (refer to Appendix ‘B’).

Staff have communicated with affected property owners

Staff have contacted and provided educational material to affected property owners regarding the impact of Part IV designation, including the relevant Statements of Significance, which helps owners understand why their property is proposed for designation at this time, what is of heritage value of the property, and provides answers to commonly asked questions (e.g., information about the heritage approvals process for future alterations and municipal financial assistance through tax rebates and grant programs). Property owners also have appeal rights to the Ontario Land Tribunal (“OLT”) should they wish to object to designation. For additional information, see the bulleted list in the last section.

Staff note that the material sent to the owners has been undertaken as a courtesy to provide advance notice of an upcoming meeting where Council will consider whether to initiate the designation process for the property. It is not formal notice of the intention to designate as required by the Act which can only be done by Council. The objective of the advance notice is to begin a conversation about the future potential designation of the property.

Deferral of the Notice of Intention of Designate is not recommended

Staff have thoroughly researched and carefully selected the properties proposed for designation. The properties recommended for designation are, in the opinion of Staff, the most significant heritage properties currently listed on the Heritage Register. This position is substantiated by the detailed research undertaken by Staff for each property. Also, to allow a review of the proposed designation material, owners are typically provided over 50 days including the 30-day official objection period required by the Act.

Further, the three properties identified in this report are in a proposed secondary plan area (“Upper Markham Village”) for which an Official Plan Amendment application has been received by the City and deemed

complete on February 11, 2025. Section 29(1.2) of the Act now restricts Council's ability to issue a NOID to a 90-day window after an application for a prescribed event (i.e. Official Plan Amendment, Zoning By-law Amendment, and Draft Plan of Subdivision applications) has been deemed complete. Should Council not issue a NOID within 90 days, it loses the ability to do so until the application process is complete (e.g. Council renders a decision on the relevant application, or an order is issued by the OLT in the event of an appeal). Inaction within the 90-day window poses a threat to heritage resources through either significant alteration or demolition.

Staff welcome the opportunity to work with property owners to address their concerns whenever feasible prior to Council adoption of a designation by-law. For example, modifications have included scoping the impact of the designation by-law to the immediate area surrounding a heritage resource through the use of a Reference Plan should it be contained within a larger parcel or refining the identified heritage attributes, where warranted. Staff maintain the objective is to be a cooperative partner in the designation process and ensure that good heritage conservation and development are not mutually exclusive. While Bill 200 extended the deadline for designation, Staff have the necessary time and resources to designate all significant listed properties by the deadline as originally created by Bill 23 and do not recommend delaying the protection of our cultural heritage resources.

The Process and Procedures for Designation under Part IV of the Act are summarized below

- Staff undertake research and evaluate the property under O.Reg. 9/06, as amended, to determine whether it should be considered a significant cultural heritage resource worthy of Part IV designation;
- Council is advised by its municipal heritage committee with respect to the cultural heritage value of the property;
- Council may state its Intention to Designate the property under Part IV of the Act and is to include a statement explaining the cultural heritage value or interest of the property and a description of the heritage attributes of the property;
- Should Council wish to pursue designation, notice must be provided to the owner and the Ontario Heritage Trust that includes a description of the cultural heritage value of the property. A notice, either published in a local newspaper or posted digitally in a readily accessed location, must be provided with the same details (i.e. the City's website);
- Following the publication of the notice, interested parties can object to the designation within a 30-day window. If an objection notice is received, Council is required to consider the objection and make a decision whether or not to withdraw the notice of intention to designate;
- Should Council proceed with designation, it must pass a by-law to that effect within 120 days of the date in which the notice was published. There are notice requirements and a 30-day appeal period following Council adoption of the by-law in which interested parties can serve notice to the municipality and the OLT of their objection to the designation by-law. Should no appeal be received within the 30-day time period, the designation by-law comes into full force. Should an appeal be received, an OLT hearing date is set to examine the merits of the objection and provide a final decision.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

There has been a significant increase in the number of designation by-laws adopted by Council in response to recent amendments to the Act through Bill 23. As a result, there may be an increase in the number of OLT appeals relative to previous years, along with the potential need to secure additional funds from Council to

support Staff preparation and attendance at the OLT. Should existing funding sources be found inadequate, staff will advise Council through a future Staff report.

HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS:

Not Applicable.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The protection and preservation of cultural heritage resources is part of the City's Growth Management strategy.

BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

Heritage Markham, Council's advisory committee on heritage matter, was consulted on the designation proposals. Clerks Department/Heritage Section will be responsible for future notice provisions. An appeal to the OLT would involve staff from the Planning and Urban Design (Heritage Section), Legal Services, and Clerks Department.

RECOMMENDED BY:

Giulio Cescato, RPP, MCIP
Director of Planning and Urban Design

Arvin Prasad, MPA, RPP, MCIP
Commissioner of Development Services

APPENDICES:

Appendix 'A': Images of the Properties Proposed for Designation

Appendix 'B': Heritage Markham Extract

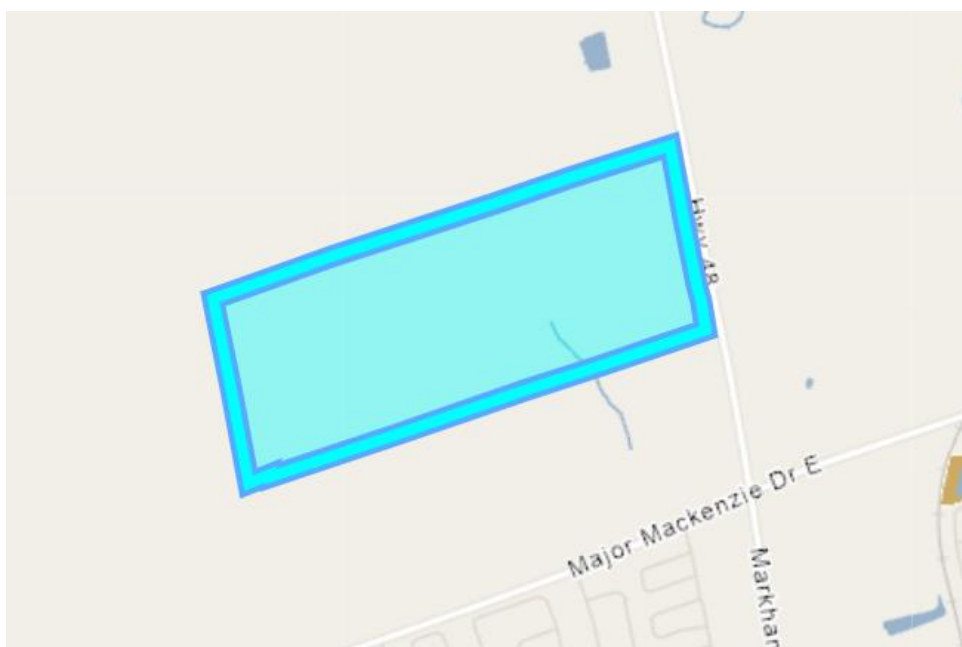
Appendix 'C': Statements of Significance

Appendix 'D': Research Reports

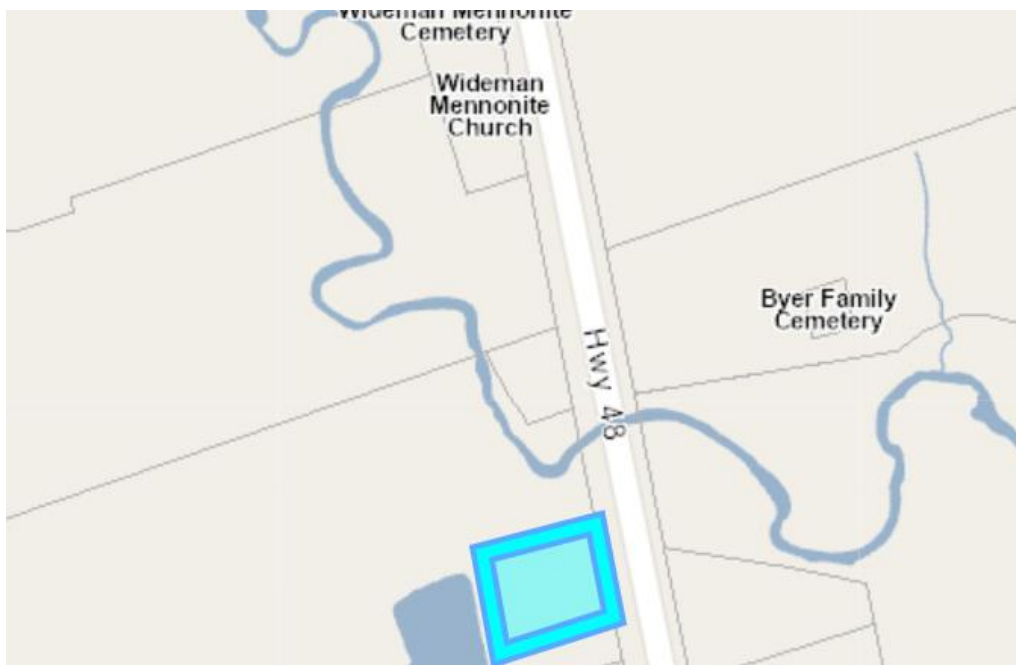
APPENDIX ‘A’: Images of the Properties Proposed for Designation

10224 Highway 48 (Ward 6): “Christian and Nancy Hoover House”

Primary Elevation and Property Map

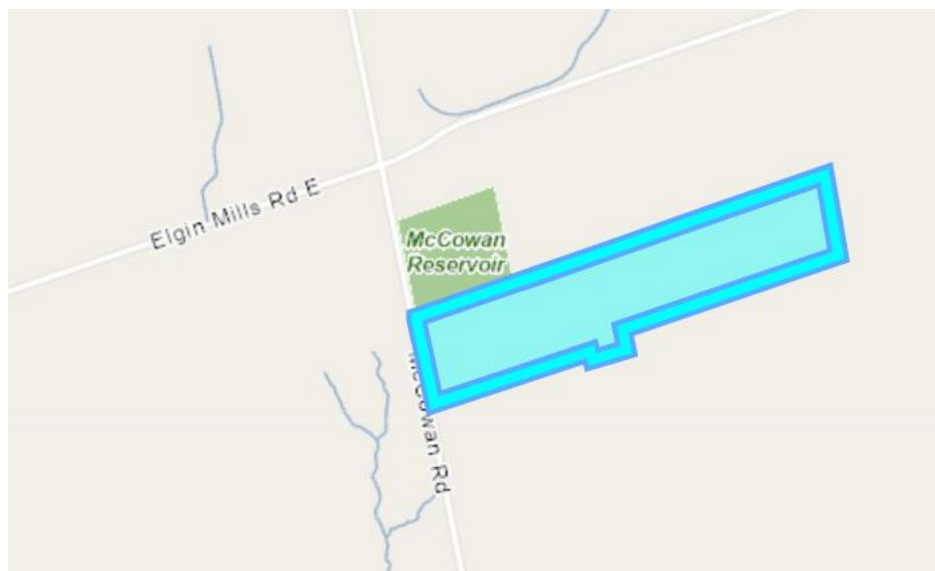


10388 Highway 48 (Ward 6): “Jesse and Emma Byer House”
Primary Elevation and Property Map



10535 & 10537 McCowan Road (Ward 6): “Joseph & Mary Steckley Houses”
Primary Elevations and Property Map





APPENDIX 'B': Heritage Markham Extract**HERITAGE MARKHAM EXTRACT**

Date: June 23, 2023

To: R. Hutcheson, Manager, Heritage Planning
E. Manning, Senior Heritage Planner

EXTRACT CONTAINING ITEM # 6.1 OF THE SEVENTH HERITAGE MARKHAM
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON June 14, 2023

6. PART FOUR - REGULAR**6.1 PROPOSED STREAMLINED APPROACH FOR HERITAGE MARKHAM
CONSULTATION****DESIGNATION OF PRIORITY PROPERTIES LISTED ON THE CITY OF
MARKHAM'S REGISTER OF PROPERTIES OF CULTURAL HERITAGE
VALUE OR INTEREST IN RESPONSE TO BILL 23 (16.11)**

File Number:

n/a

Evan Manning, Senior Heritage Planner, introduced this item advising that it is related to a proposal for a streamlined approach for the designation of priority listed properties which requires consultation with the municipal heritage committee. Mr. Manning provided an overview of the evaluation criteria used to evaluate the physical heritage significance of the properties listed on the Heritage Register and displayed images of all the evaluated properties organized into "High", "Medium", and "Low" as it relates to their perceived heritage significance. Mr. Manning stressed that Heritage Section Staff wish to designate as many properties as possible but noted that it was important to establish priorities given the two-year deadline to designate.

Regan Hutcheson noted that these rankings were established based only upon appearance. Mr. Hutcheson confirmed that further research will be conducted into properties are part of the designation process.

Staff further explained that they were recommending a streamlined Heritage Markham consultation process to satisfy the requirements of Section 29(2) of the Ontario Heritage Act, and that was the purpose of reviewing all the ranked properties at this meeting. No further review with Heritage Markham Committee will occur if the Committee agrees with this approach concerning the designation of the identified properties in the Evaluation Report.

The Committee provided the following feedback:

- Questioned how the number of listed properties was reduced from over 300 to the 158 that were evaluated using the criteria shown in the presentation package. Staff noted that, for example, properties that are owned by the Provincial or Federal government were excluded from evaluation as they are not subject to the protections afforded by Part IV designation. Municipally-owned properties were removed as were cemeteries. This, along with other considerations, reduced the number of properties evaluated for designation;
- Questioned what will happen to the lowest ranked properties. Staff noted research efforts were being focused on the highest ranked properties and that if time permits, these properties would be researched. If designation is not recommended by staff, the specific properties will return to Heritage Markham Committee for review;
- Questioned why heritage building that were previously incorporated into developments are generally not considered a high priority for designation. Staff noted that these properties can be protected through potential future Heritage Easement Agreements should they be subject to a development application after “falling” off the Heritage Register;
- Requested that the Committee be kept up-to-date on the progress of the designation project. Staff noted that the Committee will be updated on a regular basis as the designation project progresses.

Staff recommended the proposed streamlined Heritage Markham review approach be supported.

Recommendations:

THAT Heritage Markham supports designation of the properties included in the Evaluation Report under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act;

AND THAT if after further research and evaluation, any of the identified properties are not recommended by staff to proceed to designation, those properties be brought back to the Heritage Markham Committee for review.

Carried

APPENDIX 'C': Statements of Significance**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE****Christian and Nancy Hoover House**

10224 Highway 48
c.1882

The Christian and Nancy Hoover House is recommended for designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act as a property of cultural heritage value or interest, as described in the following Statement of Significance.

Description of Property

The Christian and Nancy Hoover House is a one-and-a-half storey brick farmhouse located on the west side of Highway 48, in the historic community of Milnesville. The house faces east.

Design Value and Physical Value

The Christian and Nancy Hoover House has design and physical value as a fine representative example of a late-nineteenth century Ontario Classic farmhouse. This house form was popular from the 1860s to the 1890s, with similar examples constructed throughout Markham Township. These vernacular dwellings were often decorated with features associated with the Gothic Revival style or Italianate style, as was the case here with the steep centre gables ornamented with turned finials and kingposts, and the eyebrow-like window and door heads. With its one-and-a-half storey form, T-shaped plan, symmetrical 3-bay front, patterned brickwork, and segmentally-headed 2 over 2 windows, this vernacular building is representative of farmhouses built in old Markham Township in the third quarter of the nineteenth century.

This house is also one of Markham's best examples of polychromatic or patterned brickwork, a style that originated as a revival of the colourful brickwork of Medieval Venice that was in vogue in Southern Ontario from the mid-1840s to the 1880s.

Historical Value and Associative Value

The Christian and Nancy Hoover House has historical value or associative value representing the religious and cultural mosaic theme of Pennsylvania German Mennonites being attracted to Markham Township in the early nineteenth century. The Hoover family were Pennsylvania Germans of the Mennonite faith that came to Markham from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in the 1810s. There were four brothers: John, Martin, Daniel and Christian. The Christian Hoover that purchased Lot 22, Concession 7 in 1864 was the son of Daniel Hoover and Anna Stouffer. Christian Hoover and his wife, Anne (Barkey) Hoover lived on Lot 29, Concession 7, a number of farm lots to the north, therefore this property was purchased as an investment, likely with the idea that one of their sons would farm there.

In 1875, Christian and Anne Hoover sold the farm to their son, Christian B. Hoover, who was noted as living on the property at the time of the 1871 census. He was married to Anna (Burkholder) Hoover, who went by Nancy. In 1882, the family built a new brick farmhouse, representing the theme of improvements to nineteenth century farmsteads as the agricultural community progressed past the early settlement phase and a certain degree of wealth was achieved. The house was occupied by their descendants until the 2000s.

Contextual Value

The Christian and Nancy Hoover House has contextual value as a farmhouse historically linked to the rural community of Milnesville. It is one of several local properties historically associated with other Pennsylvania-German families including Koch, Wideman, Raymer, Byer and other members of the Hoover family. Wideman Mennonite Church and Cemetery are located to the north of this property at 10530 Highway 48.

Heritage Attributes

Character-defining attributes that embody the cultural heritage value of the Christian and Nancy Hoover House are organized by their respective Ontario Regulation 9/06 criteria, as amended, below:

Heritage attributes that convey the property's design value or physical value as a very good representative example of late nineteenth century Ontario Classic farmhouse:

- T-shaped plan;
- One-and-a-half storey height;
- Common bond red and buff brick walls;
- Marble datestone;
- Fieldstone foundation;
- Medium-pitched cross-gable roof with projecting, open eaves and steep centre gables with turned finials and kingposts on east and north sides;
- Front doorcase with single-leaf glazed and paneled wood door, three-part segmentally-headed transom light, and two-paned sidelights with paneled aprons;
- Elaborately turned wood half posts on either side of the front door and a wooden nailing strip above the ground floor door and window openings (remnants of a former full-width veranda);
- Single-leaf, wood door in the front gable;
- Single-leaf wood doors on the north and south sides of the rear wing;
- Gable-roofed, brick exterior cellar entrance enclosures on south wall of the main block and west wall of rear wing;
- Segmentally-headed 2/2 single-hung wood windows with projecting lugsills;
- Shed-roofed veranda on south side of rear wing.

Heritage attributes that convey the property's design value or physical value as one of Markham's best examples of polychromatic or patterned brickwork and the high quality of its solid brick construction:

- Common bond red brick body trimmed with buff brick accents consisting of a plinth, quoins, window and door heads, and belt course.

Heritage attributes that convey the property's historical value or associative value, representing the cultural mosaic theme of Pennsylvania German Mennonites being attracted to Markham Township in the early nineteenth century, as the former residence of several generations of the Hoover family, and the theme of the improvement of nineteenth century farmsteads as the agricultural community progressed past the early settlement phase:

- The dwelling built in 1882 is a tangible reminder of the Hoover family that historically resided here.

Heritage attributes that convey the property's contextual value as a building historically linked to the historic community of Milnesville:

- The location of the building facing east, within the historic community of Milnesville.

Attributes of the property that are not considered to be of cultural heritage value, or are otherwise not included in the Statement of Significance:

- Existing front porch;
- Exterior concrete block chimney;
- Enclosed area of veranda on south wall of rear wing;
- Shed-roofed veranda on north wall of rear wing;
- Frame summer kitchen and woodshed.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Jesse and Emma Byer House

10388 Highway 48
c.1915

The Jesse and Emma Byer House is recommended for designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act as a property of cultural heritage value or interest, as described in the following Statement of Significance.

Description of Property

The Jesse and Emma Byer House is a two-storey red brick dwelling located on the west side of Highway 48, south of Little Rouge Creek, in the historic rural community of Milnesville. The house faces east.

Design Value and Physical Value

The Jesse and Emma Byer House has design value and physical value as a representative example of a rural dwelling in the form of an American Foursquare, with Edwardian Classical features. It is typical of the practical, simply detailed houses built on farms and in villages throughout Markham Township in the early twentieth century. Its architectural detailing is characteristic of Edwardian Classicism that was popular from the early 1900s through the 1920s. The house was constructed in the form of an American Foursquare, with a functional, compact shape and a deep front porch with Edwardian Classical details. The red pressed brick cladding, two-storey form and broad hipped roof are representative features of the style however the asymmetrical placement of door and window openings on the ground floor front is unusual for an early twentieth century house of this style.

Historical Value and Associative Value

The Jesse and Emma Byer House has associative value for its link to the Byer family, members of the Pennsylvania German community who were early European arrivals to Markham Township, and for its link to the Byer apiary business. The house is located on a portion of the eastern half of Markham Township Lot 23, Concession 7, purchased by Jonas Boyer from York County, Pennsylvania, in 1820. The property became the home of his grandson John Hoover Byer, who was a farmer, sawmill owner, and minister of the Heise Hill Brethren in Christ Church from 1872 to 1892. The Byer family is said to have brought beehives from Pennsylvania when they settled in Markham in 1810-1811. Jesse Lewis Byer, John H. Byer's grandson, carried on the family tradition of honey production. He was a noteworthy innovator in the apiary field and, according to local sources, he developed the first commercial-scale honey production in Canada which was at one time the largest apiary in the country. J. L. Byer and Sons Brookside Apiaries carried on through several generations of the Byer family until operations ceased in 1991. In 1914, Jesse L. Byer purchased two acres of Lot 23, Concession 7, which are believed to have contained an early Byer family dwelling of frame construction. The old house was replaced by a new brick dwelling c.1915 which still stands at 10388 Highway 48.

Contextual Value

The Jesse and Emma Byer House has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to its surroundings as an early twentieth century dwelling within the historic rural community of Milnesville, where it has stood since c.1915, and for being historically linked to the Byer Homestead at 10235 Highway 48, and the former location of the Byer Brothers Brookside Apiaries at 10379 Highway 48.

Heritage Attributes

Character-defining attributes that embody the cultural heritage value of the Jesse and Emma Byer House are organized by their respective Ontario Regulation 9/06 criteria, as amended, below:

Heritage attributes that convey the property's design value and physical value as a representative example of a brick rural dwelling in the form of an American Foursquare, with Edwardian Classical features:

- Square floor plan and cubic massing;
- Concrete foundation;
- Two-storey height;
- Red brick walls;
- Pyramidal roof with projecting eaves and flat soffits;
- Single-stack brick chimney on the north wall;
- Hip-roofed front veranda supported on full-height wood Tuscan columns with a simple railing with square balusters;
- Box bay window with mansard roof on the south wall;
- Three-bay front wall with off-centre single-leaf door;
- Flat-headed single-hung windows with one-over-one panes, radiating brick arches, and cast concrete lugsills.
- Small rectangular accent window on the south wall.

Heritage attributes that convey the property's historical value for its association with the Byer family, members of the early Pennsylvania German community within Markham Township, and for association with the Byer apiary business:

- The dwelling is a tangible reminder of the Byer family's long period of ownership of the property and of Jesse Lewis Byer and his nationally significant apiary business.

Heritage attributes that convey the property's contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to its surroundings:

- The location of the building on its original site, facing east, opposite the site of Byer Brothers Brookside Apiaries, within the historic rural community of Milnesville.

Attributes of the property that are not considered to be of cultural heritage value, or are otherwise not included in the Statement of Significance:

- Rear one-storey frame addition;
- Accessory building.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Joseph and Mary Steckley Houses

10535 and 10537 McCowan Road

Stone House c.1850 and Brick House c.1855

The Joseph and Mary Steckley Houses are recommended for designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act for their cultural heritage value or interest, as described in the following Statement of Significance.

Description of Property

The Joseph and Mary Steckley Houses consist of a one-and-a-half storey stone dwelling and a one-and-a-half storey brick dwelling, respectively, located on the east side of McCowan Road, south of Elgin Mills Road East. The houses are adjacent to one another on the same property and face south.

Design Value and Physical Value

The Joseph and Mary Steckley Houses have design value and physical value as a locally rare example of two separate Pennsylvania German multi-generational dwellings on the same property, and as representative examples of mid-nineteenth century farmhouses in the vernacular Georgian architectural tradition. In Pennsylvania German culture, when a farmer decided to retire and pass the operation of the family farm to one of his sons, it was common practice to construct a self-contained secondary dwelling unit, or “doddy house”, as part of the main farmhouse, or as an addition to it, for the use of the parent(s). In the case of the Steckley family, a separate dwelling was constructed next to the main farmhouse for the use of Joseph and Mary Steckley when the operation of the farm passed to their son, John Steckley. Both the stone farmhouse c.1850 and the brick farmhouse c.1855 are vernacular examples of the Georgian architectural tradition. They are restrained in design, with a sense of symmetry and formality that reflected the conservative approach to vernacular architecture in Ontario long after the Georgian period ended in 1830.

Historical Value and Associative Value

The Joseph and Mary Steckley Houses have historical value for their association with a community of early importance within early nineteenth century Markham Township, specifically Pennsylvania German Tunkers. This community was distinct from the Pennsylvania German Mennonites who settled the area during the same period. These houses are noteworthy examples of the cultural practice of Pennsylvania German families to provide multi-generational housing on their farms. Joseph Steckley was born in the Short Hills/Fonthill area of the Niagara region. His family was of Pennsylvania German origin. They were members of the Tunker Church, an Anabaptist sect related doctrinally and historically to the Mennonites that later became known as the Brethren in Christ. Joseph Steckley purchased the western 100 acres of Markham Township Lot 24, Concession 7 in 1832. His wife, Mary, was born in Pennsylvania. About 1850, the family was well-established on the farm and constructed a farmhouse of fieldstone construction to replace their earlier log dwelling. After the marriage of their son John Steckley to Mary Smith in 1855, Joseph and Mary Steckley built a

modest brick house for their retirement rather than constructing a “doddy house” addition to their home (this was the most common multi-generational housing arrangement among the Pennsylvania Germans in Markham Township). The stone farmhouse became the home of John and Mary Steckley. The farm remained in the ownership of the Steckley family until 1902.

Contextual Value

The Joseph and Mary Steckley Houses are of contextual value for being physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to their surroundings where they have stood since the mid-nineteenth century. They are two of several important mid-nineteenth century farmhouses on the stretch of McCowan Road between Major Mackenzie Drive East and Elgin Mills Road East. Together these farm residences are an indication of the prosperity of Markham’s agricultural community in the mid-nineteenth century.

Heritage Attributes

Character-defining attributes that embody the cultural heritage value of the John and Mary Steckley Houses are organized by their respective Ontario Regulation 9/06, as amended, criteria below:

Heritage attributes that convey the property’s design value and physical value as a locally rare example of two separate Pennsylvania German multi-generational dwellings on the same property, and as representative examples of mid-nineteenth century farmhouses in the vernacular Georgian architectural tradition:

Stone House

- Rectangular plan;
- One-and-a-half storey height;
- Fieldstone foundation;
- Medium-pitched gable roof with projecting eaves;
- Heavy red brick chimney at the east gable end;
- Three-bay primary (south) elevation with principal entrance consisting of a single-leaf door with flat-headed transom and sidelights;
- Flat-headed rectangular window openings with projecting lugsills and radiating red brick arches and quoin-like margins;
- Two-over-two paned windows on gable end walls.

Brick House

- Rectangular plan;
- One-and-a-half storey height;
- Masonry foundation;
- Red brick walls;
- Medium-pitched gable roof with projecting boxed eaves and eave returns;
- Heavy red brick chimney at the west gable end;
- Three-bay primary (south) elevation with a centrally-placed principal entrance;
- Flat-headed rectangular window openings with radiating brick arches and projecting lugsills;
- Gable-roofed brick exterior cellar entrance.

Heritage attributes that convey the property's high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit:

Stone House

- Multi-coloured coursed, split fieldstone walls;

Heritage attributes that convey the property's historical value for its association with a community of early importance within early nineteenth century Markham Township, specifically Pennsylvania German Tunkers. These houses are noteworthy examples of the practice of Pennsylvania German families to provide multi-generational housing on their farms:

- The stone and brick dwellings are tangible reminders of the Pennsylvania German Tunker Steckley family who owned the property from 1832 to 1902 and are an expression of the cultural practice of Pennsylvania Germans to provide multi-generational housing on their farms.

Heritage attributes that convey the property's contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings:

- The location of the buildings on their original sites next to one another, facing south, where they have stood since the 1850s.

Attributes of the property that are not considered to be of cultural heritage value, or are otherwise not included in the Statement of Significance:

Stone House

- Enclosed front porch;
- Modern front windows within old window openings;
- External chimney on west gable end;
- Frame addition on north side;
- Accessory buildings.

Brick House

- Enclosed front porch;
- Frame addition to west gable end;
- Modern windows within old window openings.

APPENDIX 'D': Research Reports

Provided under separate cover

APPENDIX 'D': Research Reports

RESEARCH REPORT



Christian and Nancy Hoover House

East Half, Lot 22, Concession 7

10224 Highway 48

1882

Heritage Section

City of Markham Planning & Urban Design

2023

History

The Christian and Nancy Hoover House is located on the east half of Markham Township Lot 22, Concession 7.

John Gray received the Crown patent for the east half of Markham Township Lot 22, Concession 7, in 1804. In 1821, he sold the property to Jacob Heise, a member of a Pennsylvania German Tunkard family. Jacob Heise did not reside on this property. He lived on Lot 26, Concession 3, west of the area that became the crossroads hamlet of Victoria Square. In 1831, Jacob Heise and his wife sold the east half of Lot 22, Concession 7 to Abraham Heise. By the time of the 1851 census, Samuel Heise, likely Abraham's son, was farming the property and living in a two-

storey log house. When the 1861 census was taken, the family had replaced the log dwelling with a two-storey frame house.

Samuel Heise sold to Christian Hoover in 1864. The Hoover family were Pennsylvania Germans of the Mennonite faith that came to Markham from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in the 1810s. There were four brothers: John, Martin, Daniel and Christian. The Christian Hoover that purchased Lot 22, Concession 7 was the son of Daniel Hoover and Anna Stouffer. Christian Hoover and his wife, Anne (Barkey) Hoover lived on Lot 29, Concession 7, a number of farm lots to the north, therefore this property was purchased as an investment, likely with the idea that one of their sons would farm there.

In 1875, Christian and Anne Hoover sold to their son, Christian B. Hoover, who was noted as living on the property at the time of the 1871 census. He was married to Anna (Burkholder) Hoover, who went by Nancy. They had four children, Isaiah, Benjamin, Adeline and Emma. In 1882, the family built a new brick farmhouse on their property. A marble datestone in the front gable peak bears the initials C B H and the year 1882, which is helpful for knowing the name of the original owner and the date the building was erected. The rural community where the farm was located was known as Milnesville. The family appears to have moved off the farm during the construction of the brick farmhouse, because according to the 1881 census, they were living on the west half of Lot 25, Concession 7 at that time.

Christian B. Hoover and Nancy (Burkholder) Hoover both died in 1893. Like many of the Hoover family, they were Mennonites and were interred in the cemetery associated with Wideman Mennonite Church, located a little to the north of their farm. In that same year, ownership of the farm was transferred to their son, Benjamin B. Hoover. Benjamin B. Hoover married Margaret B. Raymer. They had two children, Arthur L. Hoover and Clarence H. Hoover.

Clarence H. Hoover married Mary A. Barkey. Ownership of the farm was transferred to Clarence H. Hoover in 1942. He died in 1989. Clarence and Mary Hoover's daughter, Florence Bernice Hoover, who had stayed on the farm, married John Tilman Reesor late in life. This was the third marriage for John T. Reesor. His previous wives were Margaret Wideman, then Elsie May Wideman. John T. Reesor was a concrete technician at McCowan Ready Mix. In 2006 the Hoover-Reesor farm was the site of what was probably one of the last farm auction sales at an old family farm in the City of Markham, with artifacts, furnishings and farm implements accumulated over four generations were offered for sale. Since that time, the land was sold out of the family for future development.

Architecture

The Christian and Nancy Hoover House is a one-and-a-half storey brick dwelling with a T-shaped plan. The house is of solid brick construction with the brick laid in common bond. Red local brick is used that has been trimmed with buff brick quoins, plinth, door and window heads, and a belt course. The belt course is on the primary (east) elevation only. The building rests on a fieldstone foundation with the ground floor set several steps above grade.

On the primary elevation, there is a flat-roofed modern-era porch. Elaborately turned wood half posts on either side of the front door and a wooden nailing strip above the ground floor door and window openings are remnants of a former full-width veranda. The presence of a second storey “suicide door” in the centre gable suggest that the former veranda incorporated a balcony. Centred on the south gable end wall is a small, brick and frame enclosed porch that may provide access to the basement in the front section of the house. It appears to be an addition that has modified an exterior “storm cellar” type of basement entrance.

The north wall of the rear wing of the house has a small, shed-roofed porch supported on simple turned wood posts sheltering a north-facing door. An outline on the wall indicates the former presence of a full-width bellcast-roofed veranda in the ell. The turned posts appear to have been salvaged from the former veranda.

The south elevation of the rear wing has a partially enclosed veranda in the ell, and a south-facing door. This veranda has a shed roof which is integrated with an offset one-storey frame summer kitchen/woodshed on the west end wall of the rear wing. This structure has vertical tongue and groove wood siding and was built up against a brick exterior cellar entrance centred on the west end wall of the rear wing.



Detail of East (Front) 10224 Highway 48

The house has a medium-pitched, cross gable roof with projecting, open eaves. There are steep centre gables on the front or east wall, and on the north wall of the rear wing. In the front gable is a white marble datestone bearing the inscription C B H 1882. Datestones are rare in vernacular dwellings and Markham has only a few extant examples. These gables are ornamented with turned finials and kingposts, hinting that there once may have been decorative wooden bargeboards. At present, there are no known archival photographs that document the earlier appearance of the building. No historic chimneys remain. There is an exterior concrete block chimney centred on the north gable end wall of the main block.

The centrally-placed front entrance consists of a single-leaf, glazed and panelled wood door with a three-part, segmentally-headed transom light and two-paned sidelights with panelled aprons. The front of the house has three bays, with the front entrance flanked by a window on either side. The placement of window openings on this elevation and elsewhere on the house is balanced and regular. Windows are wood, single-hung, segmentally-headed, with a 2/2 pane division. Some windows have unusual casement-style storm windows. All window openings have projecting lugsills and have eyebrow-like, segmentally-arched window heads with radiating brick arches in buff brick. Door openings also have the eyebrow-like heads.



North side showing rear wing, 10224 Highway 48

The Christian and Nancy Hoover House is a very good representative example of an Ontario Classic farmhouse, as defined by Marion MacRea and Anthony Adamson in *The Ancestral Roof – Domestic Architecture of Upper Canada* (1963):

“The little vernacular house, still stubbornly Georgian in form and wearing its little gable with brave gaiety, became the abiding image of the province. It was to be the Ontario Classic style.”

The Ontario Classic is a house form that was popular from the 1860s to the 1890s, with many examples constructed on farms and in villages throughout Markham Township. These vernacular dwellings were often decorated with features associated with the Gothic Revival style or Italianate style, as was the case here with the steep centre gables ornamented with turned finials and kingposts and the eyebrow-like window heads. With its one-and-a-half storey form, T-shaped plan, symmetrical 3-bay front, patterned brickwork, and segmentally-headed 2/2 windows, this vernacular building is representative of farmhouses built in old Markham Township in the third quarter of the nineteenth century.

This house is one of Markham's best examples of polychromatic or patterned brickwork, a style that originated as a revival of the colourful brickwork of Medieval Venice that was in vogue in Southern Ontario from the mid-1840s to the 1880s. The brick has not been cleaned or sandblasted, which means that the contrasting effect between the red brick body and the buff brick trim has been well preserved.

Context

The Christian and Nancy Hoover House is located in a rural area north of Markham Village, historically known as Milnesville. It is one of 12 properties in the immediate area that are listed in the *Markham Register of Property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest*. Two are designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act: 10451 Highway 48, is the relocated Chancey Crosby House at 10451 Highway 48 (By-law 94-98), and the Samuel Wideman House at 10541 Highway 48 (By-law 2009-21). The other listed properties are historically associated with other Pennsylvania-German families including Koch, Wideman, Raymer, Byer and other members of the Hoover family. Wideman Mennonite Church and Cemetery are two lots to the north at 10530 Highway 48.

The Christian and Nancy Hoover House is located on a large farm property, with mature vegetation surrounding the vacant dwelling. A large barn complex located behind the house was demolished in 2007. The barn complex included a classic Pennsylvania German bank barn that had been modified by the infilling of the area below its overhang.

Sources

Abstract Index of Deeds for Lot 22, Concession 7, Markham Township.

Canada Census: 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911 and 1921.

Maps: McPhillips (1853-54), Tremaine (1860), Historical Atlas of the County of York (1878).

Directories: Walton (1837), Brown (1846-47), Rowsell (1850-51), Mitchell & Co, (1866), Nason (1871).

Property file for 10224 Highway 48, Heritage Section, City of Markham.

Find-a-Grave website with information from grave markers of the Hoover family in the Wideman Mennonite Church Cemetery.

The Reesor Family in Canada 1804-2000. Page 239.

Champion, Isabel (ed.). *Markham 1793-1900*. Markham: Markham Historical Society, 1989 revised edition. Pages 45-46.

Compliance with Ontario Regulation 9/06, as amended – Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.

The Christian and Nancy Hoover House has design value or physical value as a very good, representative example of an Ontario Classic farmhouse.

The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.

The Christian and Nancy Hoover House has design value or physical value because of the high quality of its solid brick construction and because it is a very good example of late nineteenth century polychromatic or patterned brickwork.

The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.

The Christian and Nancy Hoover House has historical value or associative value, representing the religious and cultural mosaic theme of Pennsylvania German Mennonites being attracted to Markham Township in the early nineteenth century. The theme of the improvement of nineteenth century farmsteads as the agricultural community progressed past the early settlement phase is also relevant when examining the history of the property.

The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.

The Christian and Nancy Hoover House has contextual value as the farmhouse that historically served the Hoover family in the rural community of Milnesville, on the east half of Lot 22, Concession 7, where it has stood since 1882. It helps maintain legibility of the agricultural character of Markham Township.

RESEARCH REPORT



Jesse and Emma Byer House **East Half Lot 23, Concession 7** **10388 Highway 48, Milnesville** **c. 1915**

Heritage Section
City of Markham Planning & Urban Design
2023

History

The Jesse and Emma Byer House is located on a portion of the eastern half of Markham Township Lot 23, Concession 7, in the historic rural community of Milnesville.

The community of Milnesville, south of Dickson Hill, began to take shape in the 1830s with the establishment of a general store at the northwest corner of the Eighth Concession (known today as Highway 48) and Elgin Mills Road East. The Markham and Elgin Mills Plank Road connected the community to Yonge Street by the 1850s. In time, two blacksmith shops were established near the crossroads along with two sawmills, a brickworks, a pottery, and the Wideman Mennonite Church. A post office was established in the general store in 1852. Milnesville was a diffuse community rather than a hamlet. Most of the land in the vicinity was agricultural with many farms owned by Pennsylvania German Mennonite families.

Edward McMahon received the Crown patent for the eastern 100 acres of Markham Township Lot 23, Concession 7 in 1817. In 1820, the property was sold to Jonas Boyer, a Pennsylvania German who came to Markham from York County, Pennsylvania in 1810-1811. The family name is also spelled Byer or Beyer depending on the primary source consulted. This family was of the Tunker faith, an Anabaptist Christian sect historically and doctrinally related to the Mennonites.

Jonas Boyer was married to Elizabeth (Schwartz) Boyer. The family settled on the western halves of Lots 22 and 23, Concession 8, purchased in 1811. The second home of Jonas and Elizabeth Boyer (10235 Highway 48) was built on the western half of Lot 22, Concession 8, in 1829. It is one of the oldest houses still standing in Markham and a locally unique example of a large, early, traditional Pennsylvania German farmhouse with a two-tier front veranda.

David Boyer Sr., a son of Jonas and Elizabeth Boyer, married Anna Doner. Their twin sons David Byer Jr. and John Hoover Byer were born in 1820 and would become noteworthy in the history of their community. In 1831, Jonas Boyer sold the property on Lot 23, Concession 7 to his son David. A frame house was built there in 1836. This house, which stood until the 1980s, is said to have been of plank-on-plank construction.



John Byer House on the west half of Lot 23, Concession 7, built in 1836. This house (demolished) was similar in design to the Byer Homestead on Lot 22, Concession 8, built in 1829. Markham Museum Collection M.1987.0.646

David Boyer/Byer died in 1844. By the time of the 1851 census, his son John Hoover Byer lived on Lot 23, Concession 7 (the subject property), and his other son David Byer Jr. lived on the Boyer family homestead, Lot 22, Concession 8.

John H. Byer was a farmer and a minister of the Tunker church from 1872 to 1892. In 1877, after years of services held in church member's homes, a church building was constructed at Heise Hill, south of Gormley's Corners. John H. Byer was married to Margaret (Cober) Byer. She was his second wife. His twin brother David Byer Jr. was a farmer but also operated a sawmill on his property. This sawmill supplied some of the lumber for plank roads in Markham

Township in the mid-nineteenth century. David Byer Jr. is best known in Markham's history as a healer who developed a treatment for certain types of external cancerous growths and tumors that was said to have been derived from a traditional First Nations remedy.

Based on census data, there were two dwellings on Lot 23, Concession 7 by the late nineteenth century. In 1891, a two-storey frame house containing eleven rooms was home to John H. Byer and his wife, Margaret (Cober) Byer. Another two-storey frame house containing eight rooms was the home of their son Peter Cober Byer and his wife Mary Jane (Herrington or Harrington) Byer. Peter and Mary Jane Byer previously lived on the eastern half of Lot 25, Concession 7 according to the 1881 census. At that time, they were tenants on the property formerly owned by Peter Milne Jr.

John H. Byer died in 1892. In 1894, the executors of John H. Byer's estate sold the farm to his son Peter Byer (1851-1936). Peter Byer sold to Daniel Smith in 1904. In 1914, the executors of Daniel Smith sold the farm to Christopher D. Smith. In that same year, Christopher Smith sold a 2-acre parcel of Lot 23, Concession 7 to Jesse Lewis Byer (1873-1950), a son of Peter and Mary Jane (Harrington) Byer (1852-1903). It is likely that this property contained one of the two frame dwellings noted in the 1891 census, most likely the home of his parents before they moved into the larger, older house on the farm after the death of John H. Byer in 1892. Jesse Byer married Emma Caroline Haacke (1874-1968) of Uxbridge in 1894. They had eight children. In 1915, according to Byer family history, Jesse Byer constructed a new two-storey brick residence on his property at a cost of \$1,900 (10388 Highway 48).

After training as a telegraph operator with the intention of working for a railway company, Jesse Byer instead decided to continue and expand the family tradition of honey production carried out by his grandfather and father. The family believe that their ancestors brought beehives to Markham when they came here from Pennsylvania. Jesse Byer produced honey on a commercial scale, and according to Trevor Watson in *Pioneer Hamlets of York*, this was the first commercial apiary in Canada, a statement supported by the Byer family who confirm that it was the first large-scale commercial apiary in the country. Jesse Byer is remembered by the family as a progressive person. He was one of the first in his community to own an automobile.

Jesse Byer was listed as an apiarist or beekeeper in the 1901, 1911 and 1921 census returns. His first beehives were located at Cashel, followed by the communities of Peaches, Altona and beyond. Jesse Byer's sons Edwin, Walter and Lloyd were part of the business, which was known as J. L. Byer and Brookside Apiaries, and later Byer Brothers Brookside Apiaries. Christopher Smith, who owned the former Byer farm, was also listed as an apiarist in the 1921 census. In 1918, Jesse Byer purchased a six-acre parcel on the northwest quarter of Lot 23, Concession 8 and two years later erected a frame building in relation to the honey business. The property was sold to his son Edwin Byer in 1923. A house adjoining the business was built on the property in 1957. Edwin and Ruth Byer's son Erle was the next owner and the last to operate the family business which closed in 1991.

Erle Byer wrote a detailed history of the family's multi-generational honey business that was included in a book titled *Those Enterprising Pennsylvania Germans*, published by the Pennsylvania German Folklore Society in 1995. In that article, aspects of the expansion of the business and the various areas where the beehives were located are described. According to Erle Byer, Jesse Byer was a prolific writer. His articles appeared in trade publications such as *The American Bee Journal*, *Bee Culture* and the *The Canadian Bee Journal*. Through his writings, says Erle Byer, Jesse Byer became the best-known bee-keeper in Canada. J. L. Byer and Sons Brookside Apiaries became one of the largest businesses of its kind in Ontario. Both Jesse Byer and Erle Byer were members of the Ontario Bee Association, and both served as president at one time.

The obituary of Jesse Lewis Byer that appeared in the June 22, 1950 edition of *The Stouffville Tribune* provides the following details about his significant apiary business:

"Through the years the late Mr. Byer pioneered in commercial bee-keeping on a vast scale. Mr. Byer was at one time President of the Ontario Beekeepers Association, and has been one of the two surviving charter members of that organization."

"Mr. Byer was a man of quiet speech, devoted to the local church and home, but he was also a distinguished man, well-known throughout Canada and the United States, and having business relations in many countries. His picture and his articles appeared through the years in the Bee Journal and other magazines for bee-keepers, and were authoritative as well as interesting. He knew as no other Canadian did the problems attending commercial production of honey in this country, because he pioneered in this field. Where others produced a few pounds, he produced carloads. The novice could learn about Foul Brood in a few minutes spent with Mr. Byer than he could from studying books or taking short courses. Out of what had been a side-line or hobby, J. L. Byer built a modern, scientific business."

In 1939, Jesse and Emma Byer sold a building lot off the southern portion of their property to their son Walter G. Byer, and a house was built there. Jesse Byer died in 1950. The larger property containing the red brick house of c.1915 became the home of another son, Lloyd Byer. Lloyd Byer obtained formal ownership of his home in 1975 from the executors of Jesse L. Byer's estate. Lloyd Byer was a long-time owner. He died in 1992.

Architecture

The Jesse and Emma Byer House is a two-storey dwelling, faced in red pressed brick, with a square plan. The building rests on a concrete foundation with the main floor raised a few steps above grade. The pyramidal roof has a wide overhang with flat soffits. There is a single-stack brick chimney on the north side. On the south side of the house, there is a box bay window capped with an early twentieth century version of a mansard roof. An open veranda with a low-pitched hipped roof shelters the front door on the east wall. The veranda has full-height wooden Tuscan columns and a wood lattice base. There is a simple railing with plain balusters. A one-storey frame addition extends from the rear wall.

The house has a three-bay front with a single-leaf door placed off-centre with a window on either side. The placement of the three window openings on the second floor is regular in contrast to the asymmetry of the ground floor front wall openings. The heads of the rectangular door and window openings have cambered brick arches but the doors and windows themselves are flat headed. Windows are single hung with one-over-one panes and cast concrete lugsills. On the south side of the house there is a horizontally oriented accent window that likely lights the entrance hall and staircase. The box bay window has paired one-over-one paned windows on the long side and narrow one-over-one windows on the short sides.



10388 Highway 48. View of south side showing box bay window.

The Jesse and Emma Byer House is typical of the practical, simply detailed houses built on farms and in villages throughout Markham Township in the early twentieth century. Its architectural detailing is characteristic of Edwardian Classicism that was popular from the early 1900s through the 1920s. The house was constructed in the form of an American Foursquare with a functional, compact shape and a deep front porch with Edwardian Classical details. The red pressed brick cladding, two-storey form, and broad hipped roof are representative features of the style as seen in this region, however the asymmetrical placement of openings on the ground floor front is unusual for an early twentieth century house of this style.

Context

The Jesse and Emma Byer House is one of a number of nineteenth and early twentieth century dwellings in the vicinity of the historic rural community of Milnesville that make legible the agricultural history of the area. The property at 10388 Highway 48 is historically linked to the Byer Homestead at 10235 Highway 48, another property listed on the *Markham Register of Property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest*.

Sources

Deed Abstracts for Markham Township Lot 23, Concession 7, and Lots 22 and 23, Concession 8.
Canada Census: 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911 and 1921.

Markham Township Directories: Walton (1837), Brown (1846-47), Rowsell (1850-51), Mitchell (1866), Nason (1871), and Markham Township Directories of 1892 and 1918.

Maps of Markham Township: McPhillips (1853-54), Tremaine (1860), and Historical Atlas of the County of York, Ontario (1878).

Family History File for Byer, Heritage Section, City of Markham Planning & Urban Design.

Byer Family Cemetery Memorial Service Program, August 11, 1996.

The Reesor Family in Canada 1804-2000. Page 131.

Byer, Erle. "Byer Family Honey." *Those Enterprising Pennsylvania Germans*. Kitchener: Pennsylvania German Folklore Society of Ontario, 1995. Pages 80-85.

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Champion, Isabel (ed.). *Markham 1793-1900*. Markham: Markham Historical Society, Second Edition, Revised, 1989. Page 40, 43-44, 151-152, and 184.

Champion, Mary B. (ed.). *Markham Remembered – A Pictorial History of Old Markham Township*. Markham: Markham Historical Society, 1988. Page 50.

Watson, Trevor. "Milnesville." *Pioneer Hamlets of York*. Kitchener: Pennsylvania German Folklore Society of Ontario. 1977. Page 146.

Find-a-Grave Website Search for Jesse L. Byer.

"Prominent Markham Twp. Apiarist, J. L. Byer is Laid to Rest." *The Stouffville Tribune*, June 22, 1950.

Gospel Herald Vol. XLIII, Number 32, August, 1950. Obituary for Jesse L. Byer.

"The York County Bee-keeper." *The Canadian Bee Journal*, Vol. XIV, February 1906. Page 31.

"Canadian Bee-Keepers – J. L. Byer." *The Canadian Bee Journal*, October 1910. Pages 295-297.

Compliance with Ontario Regulation 9/06, as amended – Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property has design value or physical value as a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.

The Jesse and Emma Byer House is a representative example of a brick rural dwelling in the form of an American Foursquare, with Edwardian Classical features.

The property has historical value or physical value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.

The Jesse and Emma Byer House has historical value for its association with the Pennsylvania German Tunker community who were early European settlers in Markham Township and for its association with the Byer apiary business, said to have been the first, and at one time one of the largest, commercial honey-producing operation of its kind in Ontario.

The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.

The Jesse and Emma Byer House has contextual value as an early twentieth century dwelling within the historic rural community of Milnesville. Its presence makes legible the historically

important agricultural character of the community which was the economic foundation of Markham Township.

RESEARCH REPORT



Joseph & Mary Steckley Houses
West Half Lot 24, Concession 7
10535 & 10537 McCowan Road
c.1850 & c.1855

Heritage Section
City of Markham Planning & Urban Design
2023

History

This property contains two mid-nineteenth century farmhouses which stand side-by-side on a portion of the western half of Markham Township Lot 24, Concession 7. The stone dwelling, the older of the two, is addressed 10535 McCowan Road. The brick dwelling, located a short distance to the west of the stone house, is addressed 10537 McCowan Road.

John McGill received the Crown patent for the entire 200 acres of Markham Township Lot 24, Concession 7 in 1806. The Honorable John McGill, Lieutenant of the County of York in 1807, was in charge of raising a militia in defense of the colony in the event of war with the United States in the uneasy years leading up to the War of 1812.

In the same year that he received the Crown patent for Lot 24, Concession 7, John McGill sold the property to Elijah Bentley, an Anabaptist preacher. Bentley was a sympathizer with the American forces that attacked Upper Canada during the War of 1812 and occupied the Town of York in 1813. He was tried, convicted, and sentenced to six months imprisonment by the colonial government. Before the events of 1813, Elijah Bentley had sold his property to Christopher Hoover, a Pennsylvania German Mennonite, in 1807.

Christopher Hoover sold to Abraham Lehman in 1826. Like Christian Hoover, Abraham Lehman was a member of Markham's Pennsylvania German Mennonite community. He was one of several men named Abraham Lehman that lived in Markham Township in the early nineteenth century. Abraham Lehman was married to Mary or Marie (Stewig) Lehman. Abraham Lehman died in 1827.

Jacob Lehman, possibly a son of Abraham and Marie Lehman, purchased the western 100 acres of Lot 24, Concession 7 in 1829. In 1832, Jacob Lehman sold to Joseph Steckley. Joseph Steckley (or Stickley) was born in the Short Hills/Fonthill area of the Niagara Region. His family was of Pennsylvania German origin. They were members of the Dunkard or Tunker Church, an Anabaptist sect related doctrinally and historically to the Mennonites. This Christian sect later became known as the Brethren in Christ. In Markham, the Tunker congregation was known as Heise Hill. Initially, church members worshipped in members' homes, circulating between sixteen different places. In 1877, a church was built at Heise Hill, south of Gormley's Corners. The location is now part of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville. Steckley, Hoover, Heise, Doner, Baker and Horner were some of Markham's Tunker families.

Joseph Steckley's wife Mary was born in Pennsylvania. At the time of the 1851 census, Joseph Steckley was a farmer, age 56. His unmarried son John Steckley, age 23, resided with his parents in a two-storey stone house. This is the stone house at 10535 McCowan Road. A date of construction of c.1850 is suggested for this house, but it may be earlier, possibly built in the 1840s. Also on the property in 1851 was a one-storey log house lived in by Joseph Harrison, a painter, and Paul Duncan, a labourer, and his wife and infant son. This log house was likely the Steckley family's first residence on the property.

By the time of the 1861 census, John Steckley was married to Mary (Smith) Steckley. Based on the age of their oldest child, they married about 1855. In 1861 Joseph and Mary Steckley lived in a two-storey brick house (10537 McCowan Road) that was likely constructed around the time of John and Mary Steckley's marriage. This house is smaller than the stone house, having been designed as a home for Joseph and Mary Steckley's retirement. John and Mary Steckley lived in the larger stone house with their three young children.

This John Steckley should not be confused with John Steckley, the son of Christian Steckley Jr. and Elizabeth (Hilts) Steckley. That John Steckley lived on Lot 31, Concession 4, west of the hamlet of Almira. His home was one of the sixteen residences where members of the Heise Hill congregation worshipped before their church was built in 1877.

By 1871, Joseph Steckley was a widower. His son John Steckley remained on the family farm but in 1874 purchased the eastern half of Lot 24, Concession 6, the farm directly across the road from where he resided.

Joseph Steckley and John Steckley both died in the mid-1870s. The home farm passed to Joseph Steckley, the grandson of Joseph Steckley Sr. He was a teenager at the time. The farm on the opposite side of the road passed to the younger sons of John and Mary Steckley, John Steckley Jr. and William Steckley. According to the 1881 census, the boys lived on Lot 24, Concession 7 with their widowed mother,.

Joseph Steckley was married by the time of the 1891 census. He lived in the stone farmhouse with his wife Jane and their four children. Mary Steckley, the widow of John Steckley, was also in the household. The brick farmhouse was lived in by a tenant farmer, Frank Lester.

In 1902, John Stickley Jr., the administrator of the estate of Joseph Steckley/Stickley, sold the farm to Anna Maria Cleverdon, the wife of Richard Cleverdon. The Cleverdon family previously farmed in East Gwillimbury. Richard Cleverdon was born in England; his wife was born in the U.S. In 1951, their son William A. H. Cleverdon sold the property to John and Jane Gulham. The next owners were William G. Nigh and John Nigh (Nigh Brothers), who purchased the farm in 1953. In 1968, Nigh Brothers sold to investors.

Architecture

Stone Farmhouse

The older Joseph and Mary Steckley House at 10535 McCowan Road is a one-and-a-half storey fieldstone dwelling with a rectangular plan. The ground floor level is several steps above grade, allowing for a cellar area as indicated by basement windows and an enclosed exterior cellar entrance on the east gable end. The lower part of the front wall has been parged, probably for waterproofing. An enclosed porch is located on the front or south wall, sheltering the main entrance. At the rear of the main block is a non-historic two-storey frame addition linked to the front portion by a one-storey frame connection. This connection may be a remnant of a frame kitchen wing or summer kitchen.

The walls are of coursed split rubble composed of grey limestone, black basalt, and pink and grey granite – transported glacial material that was likely gathered from the fields and nearby stream beds. Larger squared stones were used at the corners and on the front wall. On the side walls, some squared stones were used, intermixed with random rubble. A strip of less formal stonework is located above the front windows, an indication of a former full-width veranda which would have had a roof that would conceal this less sophisticated stonework.

Window openings are framed with flat red brick arches and narrow quoin-like margins. The arches over the front windows consist of a narrow course of headers, another indication that the area above them was intended to be concealed by the roof of a veranda. On the gable end walls, the brick arches are splayed and composed of stretchers and headers. The front windows are recent replacements with one-over-one panes. Windows on the gable ends are single-hung wood windows from the late nineteenth century with two-over-two panes.

The roof is a medium-pitched gable with projecting eaves. At the time when a photograph was taken for the 1991 *Markham Inventory of Heritage Buildings*, there were deep eave returns with a Classical bedmould. Now there are flat soffits with no traces remaining of the eave returns. At the east end of the roof is a heavy, corbelled, single-stack fireplace chimney of a type that would have typically served a fireplace. At the west gable end there is an exterior brick chimney that is placed slightly off-centre on the wall.

The house has a three-bay front. The centrally-placed entrance is concealed within a twentieth century enclosed porch. According to a description of the entrance in the 1991 *Markham Inventory of Heritage Buildings*, there is a door with a flat-headed transom light and sidelights.

Joseph and Mary Steckely's stone house is a fieldstone farmhouse displaying the symmetry and formality typical of Georgian architecture combined with elements of the Classic Revival style, including a doorcase with a rectangular transom and sidelights and formerly, eave returns with a Classical bedmould. Farmhouses designed in the Georgian architectural tradition embellished with Classical detailing were the norm for this area in the mid-nineteenth century. Most were one-and-a-half storeys in height and had a single-storey kitchen wing at the rear (absent or altered in this example). Stone or brick construction were typical. In this house, the formal Georgian design principles of balance and proportion are relieved by multi-coloured squared stonework accented with red brick window surrounds. The quoin-like brick margins around the window openings are narrower in width compared to other examples in Markham. This window treatment, combined with the use of squared stone at the corners, may be an indication that the owner was minimizing the use of brick for reasons of economy.

Brick Farmhouse

The brick house at 10537 McCowan Road is a one-and-a-half storey red brick dwelling with a rectangular plan. The ground floor level is several steps above grade allowing for a cellar area as indicated by an enclosed exterior cellar entrance on the east gable end. The foundation has a parged concrete finish. It is not certain if this is a later foundation, or if the parging covers fieldstone. A hip-roofed enclosed porch clad in wood shingles is located on the front or south

wall, sheltering the main entrance. There is a non-historic one-storey frame addition on the west gable end wall. The addition is clad in wide wood clapboard and has a low-pitched gable roof. It appears to date from the 1960s or 1970s.

The walls are of local red-orange brick laid in common bond. Decorative features of the brickwork are limited to simple spayed arches over window openings consisting of a single course of headers. A horizontal line on the front and west walls indicates the former presence of a wrap-around veranda.

The roof is a medium-pitched gable with projecting eaves. There are eave returns and a narrow bedmould. At the west end of the roof is a heavy, corbelled, single-stack fireplace chimney.

The house has a three-bay front. The centrally-placed entrance is concealed within a twentieth century enclosed porch. Details about the door are unknown, but given the modest scale of the dwelling, it is most likely a single-leaf door without sidelights. Ground floor windows on either side of the enclosed porch are large in size for such a small house. The one-over-one single hung windows may be altered multi-paned windows (six over six panes?) more typical of the mid-nineteenth century period of construction, or they are later replacements for the original windows. The window openings have projecting concrete lugsills that may have replaced wooden lugsills.

On the east gable end wall there is one ground floor window placed toward the north, and two smaller windows in the gable wall above. The windows have a one-over-one glazing configuration. The exterior cellar entrance is of brick that matches that of the main body of the house. The cellar entrance has a gable roof. Any basement windows on the nineteenth century portion of the house have been closed.

The west gable end wall is partially obscured by the frame addition. It is likely that a ground floor window was converted to a door leading into the addition. In the gable wall above, the northerly second storey window has been bricked in.

Joseph and Mary Steckley's later brick house is a vernacular dwelling designed with the symmetry and formality of the Georgian architectural tradition. The house is modest in scale, in keeping with its original function as Joseph and Mary Steckley's home constructed when they retired and handed the farm's operation over to their son John Steckley. In Pennsylvania German culture, the provision of a self-contained dwelling called a "doddy house" for the aged parents was a common practice. Often the separate quarters were housed in an addition to the main farmhouse. In this case, the Steckley family chose to build a completely separate dwelling beside the farmhouse. This example of side-by-side multi-generational dwellings is locally rare.

Context

The Joseph and Mary Steckley Houses are located in a rural setting south of the McCowan Reservoir. They are two of several important mid-nineteenth century farmhouses on the stretch of McCowan Road between Major Mackenzie Drive and Elgin Mills Road, representing

the agricultural heritage of the area. On Lot 23, Concession 7 to the south is the Thomas and Catharine Peach House, c.1845 at 10387 McCowan Road. On Lot 22, Concession 7 is the Haacke-Warriner House, c.1855 at 10159 McCowan Road. Together these farm residences are an indication of the prosperity of Markham's agricultural community in the mid-nineteenth century.

A gable-roofed barn associated with the two farmhouses was demolished in 2004.



10535 and 10537 McCowan Road, showing the relationship between the two dwellings. Note the exterior cellar entrances.

Sources

Deed Abstracts for Lot 24, Concession 7, Markham Township.

Canada Census" 1851, 1861,1871,1881, 1891, 1901, 1911 and 1921.

Directories of Markham Township: Walton (1837), Brown (1846-47), Rowsell (1850-51), Mitchell (1866), Nason (1871) and 1892 Directory.

Maps of Markham Township: McPhillips (1953-54), Tremaine (1860), and Historical Atlas of the County of York, Ontario (1878).

Property Files for 10535 and 10537 McCowan Road, Heritage Section, City of Markham Planning & Urban Design.

Champion, Isabel (ed.). *Markham 1793-1900*. Markham: Markham Historical Society, Second Edition, Revised, 1989. Pages 49, 151-152, 161, 204-205

Compliance with Ontario Regulation 9/06, as amended – Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early examples of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.

The Joseph and Mary Steckley Houses have design value and physical value as a locally rare example of two separated Pennsylvania German multi-generational dwellings on the same property, and as representative examples of mid-nineteenth century farmhouses in the vernacular Georgian architectural tradition.

The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.

The Joseph and Mary Steckley Houses have historical value and associative value, representing the early religious diversity of Markham Township, namely the Pennsylvania German Tunkers who arrived in the early nineteenth century and were a distinct community from the Pennsylvania German Mennonites that settled here during the same time period.

The property has historical value or associative value because it yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture.

The Joseph and Mary Steckley Houses have historical value and associative value as noteworthy examples of the practice of Pennsylvania German families to provide multi-generational dwellings on their farms.

The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.

The Joseph and Mary Steckley Houses have contextual value as two of several important mid-nineteenth century farmhouses on the stretch of McCowan Road between Major Mackenzie Drive and Elgin Mills Road. Together these farm residences are an indication of the prosperity of Markham's agricultural community in the mid-nineteenth century, and for being physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to property where these houses have stood since the mid-nineteenth century.



CYCLING AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025

ZOOM MEETING MINUTES

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Citizen Members:

Peter Miasek, Chair
 Steve Glassman, Co-Vice Chair
 Amit Arora
 Anthony Ko
 Daniel Yeung
 Doug Wolfe
 Joseph Lisi
 Joska Zerczi
 Cliff Chan, MEAC
 Cr. Reid McAlpine
 Cr. Ritch Lau

Agency:

Kathryn Shaw-Edmond
 Kevin Lee, Markham Cycles (CICS)
 Moaz Ahmed (Scooty)
 Sonia Sanita, York Region Public Health
 Sergeant Shawna Leitch, YRP
 Wincy Tsang, Smart Commute

Staff:

Eric Chan, Senior Manager, Transportation Engineering
 Fion Ho, TDM Coordinator, Transportation
 John Britto, Committee Secretary (PT)

Regrets:

Andrew Dang, Co-Vice Chair
 David Mok
 Keenan Mosdell, Markham Cycles
 Kim Adeney, AAC
 PC Patricia Graham, YRP
 Reena Mistry, YRDSB

The Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (CPAC) convened at 7:03 PM on February 20, 2025, with Peter Miasek presiding as Chair.

1. **INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**
 Peter Miasek, Chair, read the Indigenous Land Acknowledgement.
2. **DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**
 There were no conflicts of interest declared.
3. **APPROVAL/MODIFICATIONS TO AGENDA**
 The agenda was approved as presented:

4. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

**Moved by Councillor Reid McAlpine
seconded by Joseph Lisi**

That the Minutes of the official November 21, 2024, CPAC meeting be approved, as presented.

CARRIED

**Moved by Councillor Reid McAlpine
seconded by Joseph Lisi**

That the Minutes of the informal December 19, 2024, CPAC meeting be approved, as presented.

CARRIED

**Moved by Councillor Reid McAlpine
seconded by Joseph Lisi**

That the Minutes of the informal January 16, 2025, CPAC meeting be approved, as presented.

CARRIED

5. PERTINENT INFORMATION FROM GUEST SPEAKERS

5.1 Markham E-Scooter Pilot from Scooty.

Moaz Ahmad, Co-Founder & Chief Community Officer of Scooty provided an update on the E-Scooter Pilot which was a demonstration project funded by the Ontario Vehicle Innovation Network (OVIN) and Scooty was the service provider of the project. This pilot project will be wrapping up by the end of March 2025.

Future pilot projects/programs, if any, would be conducted by the City of Markham's Transportation Services, with input and feedback from CPAC. Moaz advised that Scooty has received a lot of positive feedback from the City of Markham on the pilot project. There is interest in conducting similar pilot programs by the City rather than an OVIN Demonstration Zone pilot.

Using PowerPoint slides, Moaz provided answers to the questions raised by members of the CPAC in December 2024. He requested that these not be circulated to the public at large. The Chair will send the information to individual CPAC members upon request.

Responding to a question from Peter Miasek, Chair, CPAC, Eric Chan, Senior Manager, Transportation suggested that staff would like to see the final report from Economic Development to OVIN summarising the pilot prior to deciding on a future pilot. He further advised that the results presented by Moaz were very

helpful. Eric advised that staff will follow up with Economic Development to find out when such a report is likely to be received.

Responding to a question about Enterprise Blvd, Moaz advised that, in consultation with staff, Scooty allowed riding on the sidewalk at 15 kph as well as on the roadway at 20kph, in order to increase rider safety and comfort.

Cr. Reid McAlpine suggested that, as a Member of Council, he would be in favour of putting in place another pilot program and expanding it carefully in a database and evidence-based way. One would need to carefully consider the places that people would like to go to. He suggested including the trail system within the geofenced area, along with limiting the speed and posting speed limit signs on the trails for privately owned electric vehicles and cyclists. This would send a message to the users that speed is a concern. This would involve a robust public education / communication program informing users accordingly.

Responding to this suggestion, Moaz advised that the City of Toronto has signage indicating a 20 kph speed limit on their trails. Moaz agreed to share this information with the Chair of CPAC to be disseminated to the members of CPAC. He further advised that Scooty, as a service provider, has reduced the speed to 15 kph speed limit on Enterprise sidewalk in Markham. He further advised that if the City is introducing a similar pilot or program, there is no requirement that it must be a city-wide pilot or program. Such pilots or programs can be restricted to certain trails or sections of the City, to be determined by the City. The City should have control and ownership of such pilot/programs and the results thereof. This would be a good way to make it a sustainable and effective program. Moaz indicated that Scooty would be willing to share a more robust micromobility program with the City.

Cr. McAlpine suggested that it would be a good idea to survey pedestrians to get a sense of how safe they feel with bicycles using the same trails at a particular speed they are riding at. Such a survey/s will help determine the appropriate speed such electric vehicles should be travelling at on trails. Joska suggested that speed depends on the situation.

Moaz advised that Cr. Rea did a survey with her residents in Ward 4 to seek their opinion on this matter. CPAC will discuss the results when available. He further suggested that a City-wide survey would be an excellent way to get some feedback on this issue. It would be a good idea to share this with residents to inform them on what this is all about and what the City's goals are on this initiative.

Responding to a question from Peter Miasek, Chair of CPAC, Moaz advised that when service providers approach the City with such programs, the City is advised that there will be no cost to the City, in fact, the City may benefit from receiving revenue out of such programs, e.g., trip fees, vehicle fees, administration fees,

etc. The biggest benefit out of such programs is that shared micromobility is the best option of getting around the City and learning how to make that program work.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING

6.1 Winter Pathway Network for Walkers

Cr. Reid McAlpine spoke to the following motion. There are some changes from the motion presented January 16 following comments from Eric Chan, Senior Manager of Transportation and staff from Engineering and Operations Departments.

Moved by: Cr. Reid McAlpine

Seconded by: Anthony Ko

Whereas, when weather allows, Markham residents benefit from an extensive system of parks and green spaces, and pathways through those parks and green spaces.

Whereas most of our park assets are not accessible for as many as 4 months a year due to winter weather.

Whereas outdoor winter activity should be encouraged to address the physical and mental health of residents.

Whereas City Council has endorsed an Active Transportation Master Plan (ATMP) in 2021 that recommends pedestrian and cycling network capital improvements to encourage people of all ages and abilities to walk and cycle.

Whereas the ATMP includes a recommendation on “Implement a pilot project to provide winter maintenance of a cycling spine network to evaluate costs and uptake.”.

Whereas the City of Markham implemented the winter maintenance pilot project for some paved park pathways since 2021, and provided a feasibility analysis (See appendix 1, staff report May 10, 2021, and appendix 2, staff memorandum July 13, 2021).

Whereas the 2021 reports analysed paving and maintaining all park pathways and at that time the cost was determined by council to be excessive.

Whereas the council-endorsed Greenprint Sustainability Plan suggests aggressive measures to reduce the environmental impact of city activities.

Whereas the council-endorsed Markham Municipal Energy Plan includes a commitment to net zero emissions by 2050.

Whereas Markham is currently developing the Vision Zero Road Safety Plan, School Zones Safety Guide and the Transportation Master Plan, all of which would have a variety of means to provide a safer walking and cycling network.

Whereas the city is committed to the development of “complete communities” such that extensive walking facilities are provided and walking is encouraged for short trips.

Whereas walking facilities of all types should be considered as part of the city’s transportation network 365 days a year, as are roads.

Whereas the current service level includes ploughing only a limited number of already-paved pathways that do not constitute an integrated network designed to serve significant destinations.

Whereas networked transportation systems that serve destinations are typically more heavily used than non-networked transportation assets, such as dead-end streets.

Whereas park and open space pathways often provide more direct routes to destinations than the ploughed sidewalk network.

Whereas the city sponsors an Active School Travel program to encourage walking to and from schools, while approximately 40% of the school year (ten months between September to June) is in the winter (four months between December and March).

Whereas pathways linking ploughed city sidewalks to school yards are generally not ploughed.

Whereas unploughed park pathways are often heavily used but pose a safety risk due to icing and uneven surfaces.

Whereas many local streets in mature neighbourhoods do not have sidewalks that might otherwise be ploughed in the winter.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (CPAC) recommends that Markham Council direct staff to commission a feasibility study taking into consideration the engineering, operations and financial aspects with the aim of identifying a network of existing unpaved pathways to be paved and/or ploughed through parks and green spaces that links destinations, especially those frequented by children and youths throughout the city, such as public and secondary schools, community centres, shopping centres, and all roads with transit stops.

And be it further resolved, for clarity, that it is not recommended that all existing unploughed pathways be paved and ploughed; only those identified in the feasibility study that are considered part of a complete active transportation

network serving appropriate destinations, should be considered for paving and ploughing.

And be it further resolved that CPAC recommends that the City work continue with the school boards to address unploughed pathways between ploughed city facilities and school yards.

And be it further resolved that CPAC recommends that Markham Council direct staff to include a 2026 capital budget submission to undertake the feasibility study.

And be it further resolved that CPAC recommends that staff report back to Markham Council in 2027 on the findings and recommendations of the feasibility study, and that staff update the Markham Active Transportation Master Plan to include the identified existing unpaved pathways as part of a prioritized multi-year capital implementation program.

And be it further resolved that CPAC recommends to Markham Council that this motion be shared with the directors and all trustees of the York Region District School Board and the York Catholic District School Board.

CARRIED

Responding to a question from Cr. McAlpine as to when this motion will be sent to Clerks, John Britto, Committee Secretary (PT) advised that the minutes will be sent to Clerks after they are approved at the next Official CPAC meeting in May 2025.

Cr McAlpine subsequently moved the following motion:

**Moved by: Cr. McAlpine
Seconded by: Doug Wolfe**

That this motion be forwarded to Clerks before the minutes are approved at the next quarterly meeting.

CARRIED

7. STANDING ITEMS & ONGOING PROJECTS

In view of time constraints, Peter Miasek advised Fion to circulate the slides for the following agenda items to the CPAC members so they can forward questions, if any, for consideration at the next CPAC meeting.

7.1 City's Ongoing AT Project Updates

- **Markham Transportation Master Plan**
Fion Ho, TDM Coordinator, Transportation advised that the study contains developing a micromobility strategy that would consider regulations, requirements, working with different stakeholders culminating into a plan that will provide staff with next steps in the project. Fion also alluded to

the project's schedule that included various engagement opportunities that were completed and planned for in the future. She further alluded to an online survey that is available at:

<https://yourvoicemarkham.ca/markham-transportation-master-plan> and encouraged CPAC members to participate and share with friends and family.

- Vision Zero Road Safety Plan

Fion Ho, TDM Coordinator, Transportation advised that a PIC is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Markham Civic Centre (Canada Room)

- City-Wide Parking Strategy

Fion Ho, TDM Coordinator, Transportation advised that a Council Workshop has been planned for Q2 of 2025 on the City-Wide Parking Strategy with a scheduled delivery by the end of 2025. Information about this initiative is available on <https://yourvoicemarkham.ca/markham-citywide-parking-strategy>.

- Markham Centre Trail Updates

Fion Ho, TDM Coordinator, Transportation advised that the Phase 3 Trail construction (Birchmount – Warden south side of river) is expected to be completed by spring of 2025.

Regarding the Phase 4 Design near Apple Creek discussed last month, several CPAC members have visited the site and also question why the proposed trail is not on the east side of the creek. Capital Planning Group will respond to CPAC at its March meeting.

Cr. Ritch Lau encouraged CPAC members to attend a PIC in mid-April, when he is also expecting residents from Montgomery Court to speak in support of the new trails. Responding to a question from a CPAC member, Cr. Lau agreed to email details of the PIC to CPAC members.

- Active Transportation Funding and Bill 212

Fion Ho, TDM Coordinator, Transportation provided updates on the federal Active Transportation Funding and Bill 212 status received from the province. The 7 ATF priority locations will proceed as scheduled and have received an extension for completion by January 2027. A 2025 Capital Project List has been submitted for ATF.

Responding to a question from Cr. McAlpine, about the three traffic calming projects, Eric Chan, Senior Manager, Transportation advised that they are being delayed due to uncertainty about Bill 212 and whether Markham will be prescribed in regulation to seek provincial approval.

Joska noted that the three traffic calming projects where traffic lanes are being reduced are directed at traffic safety, thus providing some extra space to for bicycle lanes. Cr. McAlpine suggested that Joska prepare a motion requesting the Chair of CPAC to write a letter to the province, including Markham MPP, Billy Pang and the Minister of Transportation that this project be completed in 2025, your regulations are unclear and we don't want it to be delayed till 2026.

Moved by: Cr. McAlpine
Seconded by: Joska Zerczi

That the Chair of the CPAC send a letter to the province and the Minister of Transportation about completing the traffic calming projects in 2025.

CARRIED

7.2 School Programs & Pilots
No update

7.3 Reports to Council

- Fion Ho, TDM Coordinator, Transportation provided an update of three upcoming reports due to the Development Services Committee in Q2/Q3 of 2025 on the School Zone Safety Guide, Vision Zero Road Safety Plan and the City-Wide Parking Strategy. Details will be provided to the CPAC when available.

7.4 EA Updates
No updates

7.5 Markham Cycling Day
Fion Ho, TDM Coordinator, Transportation advised that Markham Cycling Day, the City's signature event, is scheduled to be held on Sunday, June 15, 2025. The Committee is in the process of finalizing the logistics for the event, including the location, route and format of the event. Fion invited CPAC members to participate in this City of Markham signature event. Interested members were requested to reach out to her.

Joseph Lisi advised that Enbridge has volunteered to do the Barbeque for the Markham Cycling Day event. The Garden Basket, in collaboration with Maple Leaf Foods, has agreed to supply the food for the barbeque at a very low cost.

Fion thanked Joseph for initiating this arrangement with The Garden Basked and agreed to continue offline conversations with Joseph on this.

Peter Miasek advised that there are other food businesses on Main Street

who would like to participate as sponsors/donors, so it is good to have several options for food.

7.6 York Region Projects
No update

7.7 Subcommittee Updates

- Janes Walk. (received by email during meeting). Andrew Dang advised that the subcommittee is planning to meet within next week to create plans. CPAC members are encouraged to continue to send route recommendations to Andrew.
- No other updates

7.8 Markham Road Safety Plan
No update

7.9 Markham Cycles/CICS
No update

7.10 City Budget for AT related items – 2025
No update

7.11 CPAC Budget Review – 2025
No update

7.12 E-Bike/E-Scooter Pilot at Markham Centre
See Item 5.1

8. INFO ITEM/NEW BUSINESS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 8.1 E-Bike/Scooter Survey from Councillor Rea
Deferred to next meeting when full results available.

9. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Next informal meetings: March 20 and April 17, 2025.
Next formal meeting: May 15, 2025 (in-person).

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Addendum to Minutes – Key Actions to be Tracked

February 20, 2025

1. Encourage Economic Development to complete report on OVIN pilot (Eric)
2. Bring Winter Pathways motion to DSC (Reid)
3. Review Apple Creek trail at our meeting in March (Peter)
4. Prepare letter for province on traffic calming projects (Joska, Peter)

January 16, 2025

1. Write Salia Kalali re new RVT signage project (Peter)
2. Bring back CPAC rename idea when ready (Eric)

December 19, 2024

1. Prepare bike rack proposal for January/February 2025 including location recommendations and type of installation. See Nov 21, 2024 minutes. (Joska + committee)
2. Jane's Walk subcommittee to meet and focus on the May 2025 events, obtaining commitments from walk leaders, and then to begin working on publicity in the late winter/early spring (Andrew + Committee)
3. Write YRT re shuttle buses to GO station (Peter + Joska)

October 17, 2024

1. Check gravel soft spots on RVT in spring (Joska)

June 20, 2024

1. Discuss Cycling Without Age storage at Crosby CC (Reid)
2. Assess continuous sidewalk as part of Road Safety Plan (staff)
3. Find out more information about bike rentals in condos (Reid)



Report to: Development Services Committee

Meeting Date: April 8, 2024

SUBJECT: Canada Public Transit Fund – Housing Supply and Affordability Action Plan, Joint Grant Submission for Highway 7 East Bus Rapid Transit

PREPARED BY: John Yeh, RPP, MCIP, Acting Senior Manager, Policy & Research, Zoning & Special Projects, Ext.7922

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the April 8, 2025, report titled, “Canada Public Transit Fund – Housing Supply and Affordability Action Plan, Joint Grant Submission for Highway 7 East Bus Rapid Transit”, be received;
2. THAT City Staff continue to work with York Region Rapid Transit Corporation in refining the justification for the Highway 7 East Bus Rapid Transit Corridor in support of the Ministry of Transportation Integrated Regional Plan submission under the Canada Public Transit Fund;
3. AND THAT Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

PURPOSE:

This report provides an overview of the Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada – Canada Public Transit Fund, a program intended to help municipalities fund the planning and implementation of public transit projects. One of the objectives of the Canada Public Transit Fund is requiring a commitment to increase the supply of housing and affordability to ensure development around transit provides the ridership base to support the transit network while creating complete communities. This report also seeks endorsement of the proposed Housing Supply and Affordability Action Plan and direction to continue supporting the joint grant application to the Canada Public Transit Fund.

BACKGROUND:

In 2024 Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada announced the Canada Public Transit Fund, a long-term funding program for public transit projects in communities across Canada. The Canada Public Transit Fund represents a \$30 billion investment over 10 years starting in 2026 that’s intended to support public transit infrastructure. The Ontario Ministry of Transportation is preparing the Greater Golden Horseshoe Metro-Region Agreement Integrated Regional Plan to submit to Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada under the new Canada Public Transit Fund.

The Ministry of Transportation is working with several transit authorities in the Greater Golden Horseshoe to support the grant application including York Region Rapid Transit Corporation and is expected to submit the application in Q3 2025. York Region Rapid Transit Corporation has identified the Highway 7 East Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Corridor in the City of Markham (Markham Centre to Cornell Centre) and Jane Street BRT Corridor in the City of Vaughan as two priority projects eligible for this grant application. The Highway 7 East BRT Corridor is identified in Metrolinx's 2041 Region Transportation Plan and York Region's 10-year Capital Plan for Environmental Assessment and preliminary engineering and design. Highway 7 East is identified as a Regional Rapid Transit Corridor in the Markham Official Plan, 2014 (Map 2 – Centres and Corridors and Transit Network).

Led by York Region Rapid Transit Corporation, the Cities Markham and Vaughan are providing inputs to the grant application through the development of individual Housing Supply & Affordability Action Plans. This addresses one of the Canada Public Transit Fund objectives to increase housing supply and affordability as part of complete, transit-oriented communities. More specifically the Canada Public Transit Fund provides criteria and measures to achieve increased housing supply and affordability including:

- Providing housing options on lands surrounding transit stops and stations
- Addressing housing affordability on lands surrounding transit stops and stations
- Creating more market, non-market and affordable housing that is suitable for different-sized households, including families, near transit
- Increasing access to jobs and amenities via the public transit system

York Region Rapid Transit Corporation is coordinating with other agencies to address the remaining objectives:

- Increase use of public transit and active transportation
- Contribute to climate change mitigation and resilience
- Improve public transit and active transportation options for all

City of Markham Staff have prepared a proposed Housing Supply and Affordability Action Plan for Markham in consultation with York Region Rapid Transit Corporation. Staff have also been communicating with City of Vaughan and York Region staff to learn about each other's respective programs for further input to the Housing Supply and Affordability Action Plan. The proposed Housing Supply and Affordability Action Plan commits 12 actions to increase housing supply, increase affordable housing, increase access to jobs and amenities, and increase housing suitable for families in proximity to transit on the Highway 7 East Corridor.

Markham is a highly diverse community with over 365,000 people and Canada's third largest tech cluster with over 1500 tech companies contributing to the City's

185,000 jobs. If York Region Rapid Transit Corporation is awarded funding from the grant application to design, construct, and operate the BRT, it will support broader City building initiatives to increase housing supply, support affordable housing initiatives, and increase economic development and business opportunities along the Highway 7 East Corridor and ensures Markham continues to build thriving and complete communities.

DISCUSSION:**City Staff are working in consultation with York Region Rapid Transit Corporation Staff to support the grant application submission to Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada**

Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada views housing supply and affordability as an important part of the Canada Public Transit Fund grant application and is one of the objectives and inputs for the grant application. Encouraging development and focusing more residents, jobs, activities, amenities, and services near transit helps achieve walkable, liveable communities, promote more sustainable travel, and leverages investment made previously in transit networks such as along the Highway 7 East Corridor.

The Highway 7 East Corridor includes Markham Centre, Markville, and Cornell Centre secondary plan areas and collectively aim to achieve a total housing unit supply of close to 62,000 units, over 122,000 residents, and 30,000 jobs by 2051 (currently draft and subject to change as secondary plans are approved by Council). Within the 10-year funding period of the Canada Public Transit Fund from 2026 to 2036, it's estimated, from active and recently approved development applications, that there will be more than 34,000 new units in the three secondary plan areas. BRT infrastructure along the Highway 7 East Corridor and the actions outlined in the Housing Supply and Affordability Action Plan are essential to support the anticipated growth.

The actions from the proposed Housing Supply and Affordability Action Plan helps increase housing supply and affordability and expedite development along the Highway 7 East Corridor from Markham Centre to Cornell Centre. There are several initiatives related to land use planning, housing, and incentives that leverages work currently underway including projects from the Federal Housing Accelerator Fund, secondary plans projects, and potential opportunities including exploring the feasibility of implementing a Community Planning Permit System to expedite the development application review process. Most of the initiatives were also included as part of the February 11, 2025 Development Services Committee meeting report and presentations on the Planning and Urban Design Department 2025 Work Plan.

A comprehensive approach to planning for the Highway 7 East Corridor will ensure a well-planned complete community served by higher-order bus rapid transit. The proposed Housing Supply and Affordability Action Plan includes some of these key actions (**Appendix A** has the full list of actions):

-
- Complete an Inclusionary Zoning study and implement a program within Major Transit Station Areas including the appropriate By-laws
 - Securing affordable housing units during the development application review process (targeted for April 8, 2025 DSC meeting)
 - Complete Secondary Plan updates for Markham Centre and Cornell Centre and a new Secondary Plan for Markville
 - Explore the feasibility of implementing a Community Planning Permit System for the Highway 7 Corridor and other high growth areas of the City to further expedite the development application review process that includes affordable housing submissions

Previous research undertaken on a Community Planning Permit System and further exploration to implement through the Housing Supply and Affordability Action Plan

A Community Planning Permit System (CPPS) is a land-use planning tool that provides an alternative to the current planning approval process by combining Zoning, Minor Variances and Site Plan into one permit. A CPPS can provide greater flexibility with conditions on development and opportunities for shorter timelines by combining existing development review processes and may increase or expedite housing supply. A CPPS By-law can set conditions to ensure future development meets those standards as well as additional conditions for planning applications requesting variances from these standards. Conditions might include infrastructure requirements, community contributions, and environmental impact mitigation among others.

The City completed research and a review of a CPPS and reported to Development Services Committee on January 31, 2023 as part of the Provincial Audit and Accountability Fund Intake 3 to help municipalities find service delivery efficiencies.

Implementing a CPPS was considered though there was a focus in 2023 and 2024 to implement several development process improvement initiatives in response to Bills 109 and 23, opportunities from the Provincial Streamline Development Approval Fund, and other internally identified improvements (**Appendix B** includes a list of recent process improvements).

The Housing Supply and Affordability Action Plan is an opportunity to explore the feasibility of implementing a CPPS and to be included as part of the next phase of development application process improvements.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

If York Region Rapid Transit Corporation and the Ministry of Transportation are successful in obtaining the Canada Public Transit Fund federal transit funding, all funds will be allocated to York Region Rapid Transit Corporation via the Highway 7 East Corridor and Jane Street Corridor BRT projects which will also support the

anticipated growth, economic and community benefits along the corridors as noted in this report.

The majority of Markham's proposed Housing Supply and Affordability Action Plan initiatives leverage ongoing studies at the City that have existing approved funding sources including the Federal Housing Accelerator Fund of projects, Official Plan Review, and Secondary Plans studies. This report has no financial impact to the Operating Budget or Life Cycle Reserve Study. In addition, any future budget request will be put forth for consideration during the Capital Budget process for any required work related to the Community Planning Permit System study.

HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Goal 1 - Exceptional Services by Exceptional People, Goal 3 – Safe, Sustainable and Complete, Community Goal 4 - Stewardship of Money and Resources

BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

Planning & Urban Design, Engineering, Legal Services, Finance

RECOMMENDED BY:

Giulio Cescato, RPP, MCIP
Director Planning & Urban Design

Arvin Prasad, RPP, MCIP
Commissioner Development
Services

ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix A – Markham's Housing Supply and Affordability Action Plan
Appendix B - List of Recent Development Process Improvements

Appendix A

Markham's Housing Supply and Affordability Action Plan

The following are commitments to support the Canada Public Transit Fund (CPTF) joint submission being undertaken by the Ministry of Transportation in collaboration with York Region Rapid Transit Corporation.

CPTF Objectives	Item	Tools	Description	Mechanism
Increase new housing supply in proximity to transit	1	Secondary plan policies and zoning by-laws	Secondary plan updates for Markham Centre and Cornell Centre and a new secondary plan for Markville	Policy and zoning enabling tools
	2	Official plan policies and zoning by-law	Official Plan Review to review policies along Hwy.7 corridor outside of the three secondary plans through the Official Plan Review	Policy and zoning enabling tools
	3	Official plan policies, zoning by-law, and incentives program	Permit up to 4 Additional Residential Units as of right (Housing Accelerator Fund project)	Policy and zoning enabling tools and incentives program (e.g. potential automation of review process, outreach materials, applicant guide, etc)
	4	Official plan policies and pre-zoning	Major Transit Station Areas official plan policies and pre-zoning that includes minimum of 4 storeys (Housing Accelerator Fund Project)	Policy and zoning enabling tools
	5	Development application and building permit processes	Implementation of processes as a result of Lean Review and enhance electronic development application and permit system (ePLAN) (Housing Accelerator Fund project)	Internal process improvements, automated zoning compliance software, and ePLAN workflows
	6	Official plan policies and zoning by-law	Explore feasibility of a Community Planning Permit System to reduce planning review process timelines and allows new housing developments, including affordable and community	Policy and zoning enabling tools

Appendix A

CPTF Objectives	Item	Tools	Description	Mechanism
			housing projects to move directly to building permit stage	
Increase Affordable Housing	7	Development application process and negotiation	Securing affordable housing units during development application review process	Identify tools for affordable ownership and rental housing
	8	Financial incentives	Explore Development Charges (DC) rebate program for units that meet affordability threshold for rental and ownership (Housing Accelerator Fund project)	DC rebate program
	9	Inclusionary Zoning (IZ)	Complete an Inclusionary Zoning study and implement a program within Major Transit Station Areas including the appropriate By-laws	Policy enabling tools
	10	Community Benefits Charges By-law	Growth-funding tool from the Planning Act to capture funds from higher density development for development related capital infrastructure needs including affordable housing	Community Benefits Charges By-law
Increasing Access to Jobs and amenities	11	Official plan policies and zoning by-law	Undertake review of employment policies and designations in Official Plan Review	Policy and zoning enabling tools
Increase Housing Suitable for Families in Proximity to Transit	12	Development charge deferral agreements tied to the York Region Development Charges Deferral for Affordable, Purpose-Built Rental Buildings policy	Support York Region Affordable, Purpose-Built Rental Buildings DC Deferrals, duration of which is in part determined by proximity to transit and proportion of family sized (2bdrm or greater) units	DC deferral agreements

Appendix B

Recent City of Markham Development Review Process Improvements

- **Implemented streamlined site plan (SPC), zoning by-law amendment (ZBA), and official plan amendment (OPA) processes**

The streamlined site plan, zoning by-law amendment, and official plan amendment processes involves quickly circulating the application for review while concurrently deeming the application complete or incomplete, reducing the number of review cycles to 1, and commenting and marking up drawings in ePLAN Project Dox. The changes were a result of the City undertaking a Lean Review to examine further opportunities for efficiencies in the development process and in response to Bill 109 and 23 fee refunds if provincially prescribed timelines were not met (60 days SPC, 90 days ZBA, 120 days OPA/ZBA). As a result of Bill 185 the fee refund provisions have been removed but staff continue to implement the process changes.

- **Implemented new municipal services (MSA) and parks and open space agreement processes as a result of the updated site plan process**

These two individual processes are required prior to issuance of a building permit and new processes within and outside of ePLAN were prepared. All developments requiring Site Plan approval, within the City of Markham (City), must execute a MSA before a Building Permit can be issued. Municipal Services include, but not limited to, infrastructure upgrades, entrance(s), lighting, water, sanitary sewer and / or storm sewer system connections, tree planting or other related works external to the site.

Development or redevelopment of lands within Markham are subject to the parkland conveyance and/or payment in lieu of parkland and Community Benefits Charges, with some exceptions, according to the Planning Act and Markham's plans, strategies and bylaws.

The Parks and Open Space Agreement process facilitates the conveyance of parkland according to the Parkland Dedication By-law-2022-102 and s.42 of the Planning Act

- **Council approved Lean review identifying 18 recommendation areas for improvement**

The Lean approach includes 18 recommendation areas and more specific recommendations within to help Markham scale operations to match the increasing complexity and volume of development it is experiencing. As a result of process improvements undertaken some Lean recommendations have been superseded or completed (e.g. development fee by-law update, application intake workflow) while staff are implementing certain recommendations including

Appendix B

submission standards templates and internal standard operating procedures for development applications.

- **Upgraded ePLAN (Project Dox) development review software**

ePLAN Project Dox has been the City's electronic development application and building permit review and commenting software tool since 2018. This software eliminates the need for investing multiple tools, resulting in cost savings and increased efficiencies. The ePLAN Project Dox 9.2 Upgrade project involved the migration and deployment of the Production and Test Environments from the City's on-premise environment to cloud followed by the ePLAN Project Dox Upgrade from version 9.1 to 9.2. The major upgrade of the ePLAN Project Dox software to version 9.2 enabled additional features that have improved both the applicant and reviewer experience.

The additional features included the following upgrades to the applicant's experience:

- Providing easier drawing upload tools,
- Consolidating corrections,
- Accessing and distributing corrections to multiple consultants,
- Automatic filing of versions and identification of duplicate files,
- Notifying the user when new files are uploaded and identifying the versions,
- Providing project status emails to multiple project members (applicants); and
- Providing a simpler City comments response form

It also includes the following reviewer's experience upgrades for Staff:

- Packaging drawings and providing a single window for review /comment,
- Providing a read/unread feature for drawings and ability to select drawings that are acceptable,
- Simplifying the file version and global file compare options,
- Providing a tool similar to a shopping cart for overall corrections added; and
- Simplifying the quick review initiation process with outside agencies and other departments.

Additional upgrades have since occurred and is now up to Project Dox 9.3 and soon to be 9.4.

- **Implemented updated ePLAN website application submission process**

The ePLAN Web Portal Update project involved updating the current ePLAN Web Portal to allow for easy navigation and implementing changes to improve the applicant's web portal for a better user interface.

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- **Developed a mobile app for building permit inspections**
 The Mobile Inspection App project involved the creation of a mobile app to be used for building inspections. The app is intended to improve the inspectors' process by allowing them to easily access inspection requests, approval documents, and property history in the field.
- **Developed electronic 3D modelling software to support application review**
 The City retained WSP Canada Inc. to prepare an electronic 3D model for Markham Centre and Markham Road/ Mount Joy Secondary Plan areas in ArcGIS CityEngine. The purpose of this model is to improve and add productivity and efficiency in the functions of the development application review process including the following:

 - Enable Staff to calculate development site statistics and compare alternative site statistics quickly
 - Assist Staff to analyze proposed developments and provide recommendations
 - Enable Staff to review the impact of the development application on the surrounding context; and
 - Inform policy initiatives such as Secondary Plans, Official Plan reviews.
- **Prepared MappiT online public development applications viewer**
 MappiT is the City's GIS Interface project for development applications. The intent of this project is to help increase transparency in the development application process. MappiT also supports the private sector and consultants by allowing technical studies identified or already completed to be leveraged to support future applications and technical requirements. This project showcases all development applications by type and year and includes supporting documentation related to each application.
- **New Development Fee By-law Implementation**
 Supporting the development application process is the Development Fee by-law, which contains fees associated to process and review of development applications. The new By-law was approved by Council in December 2023 and is being implemented to ensure full cost recovery and reasonable charges.
- **Comprehensive Zoning By-law (CZBL)**
 In early 2024, the City approved the CZBL, which is currently in effect, that modernized the City's approach to zoning review following the consolidation of 46 different parent zoning by-laws applied to different geographic areas of the City from 1954 to 2004. The CZBL will ensure predictability and consistent review of development applications.

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- **Telecommunications facilities process update**

With the City's limited jurisdiction around the regulation of telecommunication facilities, staff updated the review process of these facilities to reflect the municipality's legislative role that includes:

- Communication to proponents of location and aesthetic preferences, and relevant planning priorities and characteristics to a proposed system
- Advising the proponent on the public consultation requirements

- **Terms of References prepared that support updated Pre-Application Consultation process responding to Bill 109**

- Community Infrastructure Impact Statement
- Natural Heritage Compensation Plan
- Natural Heritage Constraints Map
- Delineation of the Rouge Natural Watershed Protection Area
- Comprehensive Block Plan
- Angular Plane Study
- Arborist Report and Tree Inventory and Preservation Plan
- Transportation Impact Assessment Study
- Community Design Plan
- Sun and Shadow Study
- Urban Design Brief
- Wind Study
- Arborist Report
- 12 different Engineering Reports and Submission Outlines ranging from Functional Servicing report to transportation Impact Study

- **City-wide Urban Design Guidelines**

Staff are developing comprehensive design guidance to provide direction on a variety of building typologies that supports housing delivery and complete communities, resulting in a more efficient review process with greater certainty in development outcomes.

- **Age Friendly Design Implementation**

Staff are developing checklists, guides and training sessions to help streamline application of the guidelines through development review

- **Streetscape Guidelines/Manual and Tree Permits**

In delivering complete communities, staff are developing / updating various guidelines to streamline reviews and expedite development approvals, including

Appendix B

a one-window approach for tree preservation and removals through development review

- Urban Design has streamlined other processes, e.g. removal of **Townhouse Siting Approval** process/integration with TEC Application and Architectural Design Control (Plan of Subdivision)
- **Development Engineering related improvements**
 - Engaging with developers and set up Bi-weekly meetings to discuss and resolve any issues, resulting in quick decision making
 - Creating various Checklists (such as Pre-Servicing Agreement Checklist, TEC Checklist, PAC Checklist etc.) for better and clear communication with the developers
 - Creating Deviation Forms to assist developers to communicate with the City and get approvals, if for any reason, they are unable to meet the City's Standards
 - Retained external consultant to work on streamlining the review and approval process for underground SWM facilities and developing policies, design criteria, and engineering specifications
 - Working with other departments to streamline process for MECP (CLI-ECA). This will result in quicker approval for ECA, as it will be delegated to the City
 - Continuously working for improving and streamlining the process by preparing process documents
- **Building Standards related improvements**
 - Fully implement Zoning Preliminary Review service that allows the public to obtain confirmation of zoning compliance at the design stage prior to building permit submission
 - Streamlined internal circulation notice to planning and engineering to facilitate conditional permit clearances
 - ePLAN Owner Notification - Process enhancement for owner notification on ePLAN file activity
 - Streamline infill housing demolition applications with the associated new housing permit
 - Working group developed strategy to improve infield use of technology, streamline processes and eliminate manual paper based processes
 - Introduction of Pre Permit Consultation service to allow developers to receive Building Code comments in advance of development approvals and permit applications. This allows the design team to address any significant Code compliance issues during the design stage and reduces the amount of time spent during permit application review.
 - Ongoing development and publication of Builder Tips to assist designers and contractors on Building Code compliance for challenging or new Building Code requirements.



Report to: Development Services

Committee Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

SUBJECT: Celebrate Markham Grant Program 2025-2026 – May 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026 – Funding Approvals

PREPARED BY: Andrew Baldwin, Director Economic Growth, Culture & Entrepreneurship, 647-502-2302
 Carrie Colangelo, Research & Marketing Coordinator, Ext. 2277
 Joanna Chan, Senior Financial Analyst, Ext. 2073

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the report titled, “Celebrate Markham Grant Program 2025-2026 – May 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026 – Funding Approvals” be received;
2. THAT Council approve the recommendations of the Interdepartmental Staff Review Committee in *Attachment 1*, which includes 112 Celebrate Markham applicants for community-led events and programs, totaling \$369,300;
3. THAT Council approve \$105,500 for City-led events and programs;
4. THAT Council approve \$30,000 for the Markham Arts Council annual programs and activities;
5. THAT Staff be authorized and directed to manage the allocation of remaining incremental funding of \$52,500 that was approved as part of Budget 2025 (total incremental funding of \$92,500 less \$40,000 allocated to the four major festivals = \$52,500) annually based on the funding requirements for both applications and City-led events in a given year;
6. THAT Council approve changes to Celebrate Markham financial procedures and reporting requirements noted in this report, and authorize City Staff to identify and implement further changes to streamline program administration as approved by the City Treasurer;
7. THAT the unused Celebrate Markham Community Grant Program funding of \$42,300 from the 2024-2025 Celebrate Markham funding stream be carried forward for the 2025-2026 Celebrate Markham funding stream;
8. THAT any grant funding that was previously approved but unclaimed by the applicant up to three months after the funding cycle ends (i.e., by June 30th) be deemed cancelled, and the unclaimed but approved funding be retained in the Celebrate Markham funding pool for consideration for future applicants and City-led events;
9. THAT funding disbursed under Celebrate Markham be conditional on recipients’

adherence to all program requirements, including financial reporting and due diligence requirements; and,

10. THAT Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Celebrate Markham Grant Program 2025-2026 contains recommendations for the funding cycle for events and programs that take place from May 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026.

The report also contains recommendations for the disposition of unused funds of the Celebrate Markham program as well as recommendations for the minimum reporting requirements for the successful grant recipients.

PURPOSE:

To recommend Celebrate Markham Grant awards for events and programs between May 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026. Grant recommendations are included in *Attachment 1 – Celebrate Markham 2025-2026 Annual Funding Recommendations*.

BACKGROUND:

Funding Envelope

On October 13, 2015, Council approved a revised Celebrate Markham Grant Program after conducting a comprehensive program review involving consultation with stakeholders. As part of this approval, the funding for the Celebrate Markham Grant was set at \$370,000.

In 2021, Council authorized a one-time carry forward of unused Community Events monies made available due to fewer applicants as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This carry forward has since been used in later Celebrate Markham funding streams and currently has a balance of \$42,300.

On November 27, 2024, the City of Markham's Budget 2025 was adopted. As part of Budget 2025, the annual funding envelope for Celebrate Markham increased by \$92,500 from \$370,000 to \$462,500 based on a formula of \$1.25 per capita. The incremental \$92,500 will go toward doubling the funding for the four major festivals (Markham Music Festival, Markham Jazz Festival, Taste of Asia and Unionville Festival) and increasing the funding for signature events of City-wide importance.

The Celebrate Markham Grant is divided into two funding streams: one for community programs and events and another for City-led events. Celebrate Markham also provides funding for Arts Councils.

Celebrate Markham Program Guidelines

As stipulated in the Grant Program Guidelines, grant recipients must complete and submit a Project Outcome/Financial Report, which includes reporting on community partnerships, participation and attendee statistics, outcomes, community impact, learning and program feedback, as well as detailed reporting on actual expenses versus projected budget and

associated variance explanations within 90 days of the event completion. In addition, certain financial reporting information is required depending on the grant request amount, which is detailed in *Table 1*.

Table 1 – Current Reporting Requirements

Minimum Reporting Requirements	
Grant Threshold	Minimum Reporting Requirements
\$5,000 or less	Income statement and balance sheet prepared by the organization and signed by the Board
\$5,001 - \$10,000	A Compilation Engagement is prepared by a Licensed Public Accountant outside the organization. It consists of one document that contains financial statements for two separate fiscal years (the most recent fiscal year and the previous year).
\$10,001 & over	An Audit Engagement is prepared by a Licensed Public Accountant outside the organization. One document contains financial statements for two separate fiscal years (the most recent fiscal year and the previous year).

A Staff Review Committee was formed to evaluate applications in these key areas:

1. Organizational Readiness
2. Project Merit
3. Community Impact
4. Partners and Inclusivity
5. Waste Planning (Zero Waste Event)
6. Work Plan
7. Project Budget

The Interdepartmental Staff Review Committee includes representation from the following City departments:

- Economic Growth, Culture and Entrepreneurship (3 Coordinators and a Manager)
- Financial Services (Financial Planning)
- Recreation (Senior Manager, Manager and Coordinator of Sport Development)
- Human Resources (Diversity)

OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:

Funding Envelope

As part of Budget 2025, Celebrate Markham's annual funding envelope has been increased by \$92,500 from \$370,000 to \$462,500, based on a formula of \$1.25 per capita. In addition, the carry forward balance from 2021 is \$42,300, resulting in a total funding envelope of \$504,800 for the 2025-2026 Celebrate Markham Grant Program.

Out of the \$92,500 in incremental funding, \$40,000 has been allocated to the four major community festivals as communicated per Budget 2025 (Markham Village Music Festival, Markham Jazz Festival, Taste of Asia, and Unionville Festival). Destination Markham will also consider additional funding for these four major festivals. Staff recommend allocating the remaining incremental annual funding of \$52,500 and carry forward funding of \$42,300 as noted in this report, based on historical subscription levels and funding needs, and detailed in the following tables.

Table 2 below overviews the available funding envelope and maximum amount per application for the Community-Led Programs and Events stream.

Table 2 – Community-Led Programs and Events Funding

Program	Annual Funding 2024-2025 Excl. Carry Forward	Additional Funding under Budget 2025	Carry Forward from Unspent Prior Funds	Annual Funding 2025-2026	Maximum Amount Per Application
Culture Events and Programs	\$76,000	\$22,000	\$42,300	\$140,300	\$5,000
Major Community Festivals – Established*	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0	\$80,000	\$20,000
Major Community Festivals – Other	\$60,000	\$0	\$0	\$60,000	\$10,000
Seniors Clubs	\$40,000	\$7,000	\$0	\$47,000	\$3,000
Sports Events	\$40,000	\$2,000	\$0	\$42,000	\$10,000
					\$20,000**
Total Community-Led Events	\$256,000	\$71,000	\$42,300	\$369,300	

*For Markham Music Festival, Markham Jazz Festival, Taste of Asia and Unionville Festival

** For international or world level sports events

Table 3 below overviews the funding allocated towards City-led events and Arts Councils.

Table 3 – City-Led Events and Markham Arts Council Funding

		Annual Funding 2024-2025 Excl. Carry Forward	Additional Funding under Budget 2025	Carry Forward from Unspent Prior Funds	Annual Funding 2025-2026
City Led Events	Black History Month	\$84,000	\$21,500	\$0	\$105,500
	Canada Day				
	Doors Open Markham				
	Markham Milliken Children's Festival				
	Markham Santa Claus Parade				
Total City Led Events		\$84,000	\$21,500	\$0	\$105,500
Arts Councils	Markham Arts Council	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$30,000
Total Arts Councils		\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$30,000
Total City Led Events and Arts Councils		\$114,000	\$21,500	\$0	\$135,500

The most optimal allocation of Celebrate Markham funding to support City-led events will be finalized by Staff as initiatives are planned and implemented and costs (and any revenue offsets) are firmed up.

Table 4 below shows a summary by funding stream for the 2025-2026 Celebrate Markham funding cycle.

Table 4 – Summary of Celebrate Markham Funding by Funding Stream

Funding Stream	Annual Funding 2024-2025 Excl. Carry Forward	Additional Funding under Budget 2025	Carry Forward of Unspent Prior Funds	Annual Funding 2025-2026
Community-Led Events	\$256,000	\$71,000	\$42,300	\$369,300
City-Led Events	\$84,000	\$21,500	\$0	\$105,500
Arts Councils	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$30,000
Total Celebrate Markham Funding	\$370,000	\$92,500	\$42,300	\$504,800

Outcome of the Review of Applications for the Community-Led Programs and Events Stream

For the 2025-26 funding cycle, the City received 112 applications requesting \$1,017,500 under the Community-Led Programs and Events Stream. Table 5 summarizes the requested funding and the Staff-recommended amounts based on the evaluation of the applications in key areas, as noted earlier in the report.

Table 5 – Community-Led Programs and Events Funding Allocations

Grant Category	# of Applications Received	Funding Requested	# of Applications Recommended for Funding	Total Funding Recommended	Total Funding Envelope Available	Funds Remaining
Cultural Events & Programs	57	\$652,500	53	\$140,300	\$140,300	\$0
Major Community Festivals	14	\$150,000	12	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$0
Seniors' Clubs	28	\$84,000	27	\$47,000	\$47,000	\$0
Sport Events	13	\$131,000	5	\$42,000	\$42,000	\$0
Total	112	\$1,017,500	97	\$369,300	\$369,300	\$0

Given the volume of applications and consistent with prior years' approach, some applicants will receive less than their requested amounts based on the Interdepartmental Staff Review Committee scoring. With the infusion of additional funding this year, Celebrate Markham has been able to fund more organizations, despite the increase in the number of applicants and funding requested.

There were 15 applications that are not being recommended as they failed to meet one of the following criteria:

- Application did not meet the requirements specified under the funding category;
- Application was incomplete or was missing critical information.
- Application did not attain a high enough score to be eligible for funding consideration.

The Interdepartmental Staff Review Committee's recommended approvals are in *Attachment 1—Celebrate Markham 2025-2026 Annual Funding Recommendations*.

Areas of Improvement

As part of continuous improvement efforts, City staff, in consultation with the Finance Department, have reviewed program processes and guidelines and have identified the following changes at this time.

1. Reporting requirements changes

Currently, the Celebrate Markham Grant Program requires recipients to report back on delivery of their event and expenditure of the Celebrate Markham grant, and to provide the minimum financial reporting requirements based on the established grant threshold, as outline in *Table 1*.

Staff have reconsidered the minimum financial reporting requirement for grants and have identified the following revised requirements as shown in *Table 6*. The goal of financial reporting requirements is to provide additional oversight for organizations such that their financial statements adhere to appropriate accounting standards and represent fairly the financial health of the organization. Financial reporting requirements were not meant to be a hindrance for application nor to require additional spend by the applicant. The revisions currently being envisioned are intended to align reporting requirements with risks commensurate to the value of the grant.

There are also additional risk management mechanisms that already exist and will continue to be implemented to support the program's administration. These include the submission of supporting information noted as part of a Celebrate Markham Grant application, and the submission of a Project Outcome Report outlining the use and benefits of the grant to the community, as well as applicants' feedback. Future grants will not be provided if these reporting requirements for the previous year's event are not met.

Table 6 – Reporting Requirement Changes

Revised Minimum Reporting Requirements	
Grant Threshold	Minimum Reporting Requirements*
Less than \$10,000	Financial statements (minimum of income statement and balance sheet) for the most recent fiscal year and the previous year, prepared by the organization and signed by the Board attesting to the statements' accuracy, appropriateness and fair representation
\$10,000 - \$19,999	Complete set of the applicable financial statements for the most recent fiscal year and the previous year, prepared through a Compilation Engagement and completed by a Licensed Public Accountant** external to the organization.
\$20,000 & over	Complete set of the applicable financial statements for the most recent fiscal year and the previous year, prepared through a Review Engagement and completed by a Licensed Public Accountant** external to the organization.

*These are minimum requirements. Organizations may submit statements that provide higher levels of assurance

(e.g., fully audited statements where available). On a case-by-case basis, the City also reserves the right to request additional information, including financial statements that represent higher level of assurance, where required/warranted.

**Holds a Public Accounting License (PAL) issued by the Chartered Professional Accountants (CPA) of Ontario

The Compilation Engagement noted above involves the assembly of relevant financial information and preparation of financial statements by a licensed professional adhering to CPA requirements and guidelines. Under a Review Engagement, a higher level (but still limited) of independent assurance is provided through the completion of due diligence steps, such as testing key figures in the financial statements for accuracy. While a full Audit Engagement provides the highest level of assurance, this form of engagement involves more intensive procedures and are more cost prohibitive.

The above represents minimum reporting requirements. On a case-by-case basis, the City also reserves the right to request additional information, including financial statements that represent higher level of assurance, where required/warranted.

2. Treatment of unclaimed Celebrate Markham grant funding

Each year, there are a number of grant recipients that were approved for funding from Celebrate Markham, but did not come forward and claim the approved funding due to: 1) not handing in pre-award qualifications in accordance with Celebrate Markham timeline requirements, which include insurance certificates and confirmation of facility arrangements; or 2) not closing out the previous year's funding cycle requirements in accordance with Celebrate Markham guidelines and policies, such as the Project Outcome/Financial Report.

As a result, the City has had to accrue the funding for these applicants indefinitely, sometimes well past the funding cycle that the funding was approved for. This represents an additional administrative burden and encumbrance on City resources.

As reporting requirements, including the requirement to submit Project Outcome/Financial Reports within 90 days (or three months) of the event completion, are made clear to applicants, Staff will cancel any approved but unclaimed funding that have exceeded three months after the funding cycle ends in a given year (i.e. by June 30th of a given year). The unclaimed but approved funding to go back to the Celebrate Markham pool and carried-forward for future applicants and City-led events funding consideration.

3. Continuous improvement to the program

In order to demonstrate proper use of tax dollars, Staff will continue to work with stakeholder community to enforce rules of the Celebrate Markham Grant Program. This includes: 1) adhering to established and communicated timelines and corresponding submission deadlines for the program; 2) providing quality and robust applications; 3) providing all required documentation within the established and communicated timelines, such as Program Outcome /Financial Report.

Staff will continue to review the program going forward and identify any further changes to streamline program administration, while ensuring appropriate due diligence and risk management considerations. Any administrative changes going forward will require the approval of the City Treasurer.

Next Steps

Upon approval of the staff report and funding allocations, staff will follow up with applicants to inform them of the decisions related to their applications. The next round of applications for 2026-2027 will open as follows:

- Q3 2025:
 - Sport Events
- Q4 2025:
 - Culture Events Programs
 - Major Community Events
 - Seniors' Clubs

Staff will continue to evaluate and implement continuous improvement processes to the grant program.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

A total available funding envelope of \$504,800 is available for Celebrate Markham activities delivered between April 1, 2025 and March 31, 2026, and is provided in detail in *Table 7*.

Table 7 – 2025-2026 Celebrate Markham Funding Overview

Funding Stream	\$
Celebrate Markham 2025 Funding	\$462,500
2024 Carryforward	\$42,300
Total 2025 Funding Available	\$504,800
Celebrate Markham Funding Recommended for Approval	
Community Events	\$369,300
City Led Events	\$105,500
Markham Arts Council	\$30,000
Total 2025-2026 Celebrate Markham Spend	\$504,800
Remaining Celebrate Markham Reserve	\$0

HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

This initiative aligns with the strategic focus for community engagement to promote meaningful involvement and participation of residents, businesses and organizations that result in improved citizen engagement.

BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

Financial Services, Economic Growth, Culture and Entrepreneurship, Recreation, Human Resources Departments and Destination Markham Corporation.

RECOMMENDED BY:

Andrew Baldwin
Acting Director, Economic Growth,
Culture & Entrepreneurship

Arvin Prasad
Commissioner,
Development Services

Joseph Silva
Treasurer

Trinela Cane
Commissioner,
Corporate Services

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment 1 - Celebrate Markham 2025-2026 Annual Funding Recommendations

Attachment 1: Celebrate Markham 2025-2026 Annual Funding Recommendations

Sports Events Funding Envelope: \$42,000 Maximum Per Applicant: \$10,000 (\$20,000 for International/World Level Sports Events) 13 Applications Received and 5 Approved by the Celebrate Markham Team Funding is conditional on applicants adhering to the Celebrate Markham Guidelines					
Organization	Application Title	2025-2026 Funding Recommended	Total Grant Request	Most Recent Year Granted	Most Recent Grant Amount
Badminton Canada	2025 Yonex Canadian International Challenge	\$10,000	\$10,000	2023-2024	\$10,000
Badminton Ontario	2025 Canadian Masters Badminton Championships	\$10,000	\$10,000	2024-2025	\$10,000
Canadian Chinese Youth Athletic Association	North American Chinese Basketball Association Tournament (NACBIT)	\$7,000	\$20,000	New	\$0
Canadian Community Table Tennis Association	2025 -2026 CCTTA House League	\$0	\$8,000	2022-2023	\$3,000
DanceSport	DanceSport Grand Prix Canada 2025	\$10,000	\$10,000	2024-2025	\$12,000 (Organization total \$12,000)
Fountain of Youth Qi (750146292)	The first Daoyin Yangsheng Gong Game	\$0	\$10,000	New	\$0
Markham Chess Club	Markham Open/International Chess Tournament	\$0	\$20,000	New	\$0

Attachment 1: Celebrate Markham 2025-2026 Annual Funding Recommendations

Markham District Baseball Association	2025 Baseball Ontario 12U AA Provincial Championships	\$5,000	\$10,000	2023-2024	\$5,500
Markham-Stouffville Ringette	U12 Provincial Championship	\$0	\$5,000	2024-2025	\$3,000
DanceSport Grand Prix Canada - Ontario Amateur DanceSport	Annual Ontario DanceSport Championships to select Ontario's representatives	\$0	\$5,000	2024-2025	\$0 (Organization total \$12,000)
Squash Ontario	2025 Ontario Doubles and Mixed Doubles Squash Championships	\$0	\$5,000	2024-2025	\$3,500
Unionville Chinese Soccer Association (UCSA)	UCSA Mini World Cup Festival	\$0	\$15,000	New	\$0
Unionville Tennis Club	Ontario Tennis Association 2025 U16 Junior Tennis Championship	\$0	\$3,000	2024-2025	\$3,400
Subtotal		\$42,000	\$131,000		
Total 2025-2026 Funding Envelope		\$42,000	\$43,000		
Difference		\$0	\$88,000		

Attachment 1: Celebrate Markham 2025-2026 Annual Funding Recommendations

Seniors' Clubs Funding Envelope: \$47,000 Maximum Per Applicant: \$3,000 28 Applications Received and 27 Approved by the Celebrate Markham Team Funding is conditional on applicants adhering to the Celebrate Markham Guidelines					
Organization	Application Title	2025-2026 Funding Recommended	Total Grant Request	Most Recent Year Granted	Most Recent Grant Amount
Angus Glen Older Adults Club (AGOAC)	2025/26 Program	\$1,500	\$3,000	2024-2025	\$3,000
Angel Multicultural Art Troupe	Rhythms of Joy: Seniors' Musical Journey	\$3,000	\$3,000	New	\$0
Boxgrove Seniors Community Wellness Club	Heritage Stories: Celebrating Culture and Community	\$1,500	\$3,000	2022-2023	\$3,000
Canada Mindful Peace Association	Markham Senior Mindful Space	\$1,000	\$3,000	New	\$0
Canadian Intercultural Association for Community Development	Connecting & Empowering Seniors 2024	\$1,500	\$3,000	2023-2024	\$3,000
Canadian Senior Cooperation Association	Staying Happy and Healthy	\$1,000	\$3,000	2024-2025	\$2,000

Attachment 1: Celebrate Markham 2025-2026 Annual Funding Recommendations

CulturaArtLink Association	Cultural Arts Bond: Embracing Seniors	\$2,000	\$3,000	New	\$0
Goldencarnival Seniors Association	I Love Maple Leaf On Canada Day 2025	\$1,000	\$3,000	2024-2025	\$0
Good Neighbour of York Region Association	Health Seminar and Day Trip	\$3,000	\$3,000	2024-2025	\$1,500
Greensborough Tamil Senior's Wellness Club	Seniors' Entertainment Education	\$0	\$3,000	2019-2020	\$2,500
J.A. Children's Public Foundation	Ageless Elegance Club	\$500	\$3,000	New	\$0
Markham Confederation of Seniors Association	Protecting the Sunset: Senior Rights and Health Care Initiative	\$1,000	\$3,000	New	\$0
Markham Dynamic Wellness Seniors Club	Senior Fitness Workshops	\$1,000	\$3,000	New	\$0
Markham Sunglow Senior And Family Association	Celebrating Cultural Diversity and Inclusion	\$3,000	\$3,000	2016-2017	\$1,000
Markham Tai-Chi Seniors Club	Elderly's Day Tea Talk Event and Dragon Lantern Dance Celebration.	\$1,500	\$3,000	2024-2025	\$2,000
Markham Ward 6 Seniors Association	Active Seniors Engagement	\$3,000	\$3,000	2024-2025	\$3,000

Attachment 1: Celebrate Markham 2025-2026 Annual Funding Recommendations

Middlefield Seniors Wellness Club	Seniors First - Seniors' wellness club activities	\$3,000	\$3,000	2024-2025	\$3,000
Milliken on the Move Older Adults' Club Corp. (MOTM-OAC}	Volunteers/ Conveners Appreciation and Support Sport Tournaments in MOTM-OAC	\$3,000	\$3,000	2024-2025	\$3,000
Multicultural Exchange Association of Canada	Sing to Thrive	\$1,000	\$3,000	New	\$0
New Canadian Community Centre Markham Branch	The Senior Rouli Ball Friendship Tournament	\$3,000	\$3,000	New	\$0
Optimistic Me To We Cultural Organization	Singing and dancing about multicultural society	\$1,000	\$3,000	2024-2025	\$3,000
Social Services Network of York Region	Seniors Club	\$1,000	\$3,000	2024-2025	\$2,000
Talent Show	Healthy Life for Seniors	\$2,000	\$3,000	New	\$0
Talkpower International Club	"Golden Years Vitality Boost Exercise: Wellness Patting Routine"	\$2,000	\$3,000	New	\$0
Tamil Recreation Club - York	Recreational Activities	\$500	\$3,000	New	\$0

Attachment 1: Celebrate Markham 2025-2026 Annual Funding Recommendations

The Bocce Club of Markham	Bocce Recreation for Senior's	\$1,500	\$3,000	New	\$0
The Home of the Multicultural Seniors	Markham's Cultural Connections: Celebrating Arts, Heritage, and Culture	\$1,500	\$3,000	New	\$0
Tianfei Art Troupe Canada	Empress of Heaven Cultural Heritage Activities	\$2,000	\$3,000	New	\$0
Subtotal		\$47,000	\$84,000		
Total 2025-2026 Funding Envelope		\$47,000	\$47,000		
Difference		\$0	\$37,000		

<p>Culture Events and Programs Funding Envelope: \$140,300 Maximum Per Applicant: \$5,000 57 Applications Received and 53 Approved by the Celebrate Markham Team Funding is conditional on applicants adhering to the Celebrate Markham Guidelines</p>					
Organization	Application Title	2025-2026 Funding Recommended	Total Grant Request	Most Recent Year Granted	Most Recent Grant Amount

Attachment 1: Celebrate Markham 2025-2026 Annual Funding Recommendations

Alumni Drum Troupe	Markham Drum Festival - The Rhythm of Drums Inspires the Heart	\$3,250	\$5,000	New	\$0
Alumni Of Wuhan University In Canada	Cultural Tapestry: Markham-Wuhan Friendship Festival	\$3,000	\$5,000	New	\$0
Alumni Performing Arts Troupe	Melodies of Remembrance— Honoring Elders Day	\$3,250	\$5,000	New	\$0
Canada Children's Broadcasting Arts Group	CCBAG 2025 Charity Performance	\$2,500	\$2,000	New	\$0
Canada Chinese Opera Arts Center	Peking Opera Brilliance: Celebrate Markham	\$2,500	\$5,000	2024-2025	\$3,000
Canada Diversity Folk Culture Promotion Association	Unity Festival: Celebrating Heritage and Diversity	\$2,500	\$5,000	New	\$0
Canada Sonar Performing Arts	"Markham Traditional Sonar Music Festival"	\$3,250	\$5,000	2024-2025	\$3,000
Canadian Literary Association of Higher Education	Markham Ink Festival 2025: A Literary Harvest Celebration	\$4,000	\$5,000	2024-2025	\$4,500
Care Bank	Caring Festival— Cultural Connections Through Caring	\$3,500	\$5,000	New	\$0

Attachment 1: Celebrate Markham 2025-2026 Annual Funding Recommendations

Centre of Sustainable and Integrated Design	Centre of Sustainable and Integrated Design Cultural Events	\$3,500	\$5,000	2019-2020	\$2,000
Cherish Integrated Services	Cherish One and Only Art Fest 2025	\$3,250	\$5,000	2024-2025	\$3,000
Chinese Autism Awareness Center	Chinese Autism Awareness Center	\$1,000	\$5,000	2023-2024	\$1,000
Dorcas Centre	Annual community and cultural celebrations - Dorcas Centre	\$3,250	\$5,000	2024-2025	\$2,500
Elite Cantonese Opera	Promote Cantonese Opera Singing	\$1,000	\$5,000	New	\$0
Fengcao Arts Association	Revitalizing Traditional Health Culture Through Tai Chi Activities	\$3,000	\$5,000	New	\$0
Friends of the Markham Museum	Applefest 40th Anniversary	\$3,500	\$5,000	New	\$0
Gifted People Services	2025 Light Blue Stars talent show	\$3,250	\$5,000	2024-2025	\$3,000
GTA Community Engagement and Family Support Centre	Cornell Community Gardening Festival	\$2,000	\$5,000	2024-2025	\$2,250

Attachment 1: Celebrate Markham 2025-2026 Annual Funding Recommendations

Huafengyun Art Seniors Group	Concert of celebrating Canada's 158th anniversary, with original songs, poe	\$1,000	\$5,000	New	\$0
Huaxia Culture And Heritage Association Of Canada	Chinese Flowers Festival and Mother's Day Celebrations	\$3,000	\$5,000	New	\$0
International Psychology Association of Canada	Cultural Integration Program	\$2,000	\$5,000	New	\$0
J.A. Children's Public Foundation	5th Markham Festival	\$1,000	\$5,000	New	\$0
Kindred Spirits Orchestra	Presenting concert series at Markham Theatre, Cornell CC, Unionville Square	\$4,100	\$5,000	2024-2025	\$5,000
Lake One Culture Association	Markham Festival: Celebrating Arts, Heritage, and Culture	\$2,500	\$5,000	New	\$0
Maple Panda	Maple Panda Multicultural Community Program	\$3,250	\$5,000	2022-2023	\$5,000
Markham Christian Community Church	Chinese Heritage and Games Celebration	\$2,500	\$5,000	New	\$0
Markham Community Connect	Markham Community Connect Culture & Sports Festival	\$3,500	\$5,000	New	\$0

Attachment 1: Celebrate Markham 2025-2026 Annual Funding Recommendations

Markham Concert Band	Markham Concert Band Summer Sunday Concert Series	\$3,000	\$5,000	2022-2023	\$4,500
Markham Dynamic Wellness Seniors Club	Multicultural Arts Networking Program	\$1,000	\$5,000	New	\$0
Markham Federation of Filipino Canadians	2025 Philippine Independence Day Celebration	\$3,250	\$5,000	2024-2025	\$3,000
Markham Stouffville Cruisers	Markham Stouffville Cruisers weekly Cruise-In at the MVCC	\$1,000	\$5,000	2024-2025	\$1,500
Markham Tamil Seniors Association	Tamil Heritage Events	\$0	\$5,000	2020-2021	\$2,500
Markham Tamils Organization	Tamil Heritage Month - 2025	\$3,250	\$4,500	2023-2024	\$3,500
Mazu Tianfei Foundation of Canada	Mazu Cultural Heritage Festival	\$3,000	\$5,000	New	\$0
ME & Lau Family Foundation	ME String Music Art Exhibition & Scholarship Presentation 2025	\$4,100	\$5,000	2024-2025	\$3,000
Miracle Seniors Centre (CCTC Learning Centre)	2025 Pine Tree Senior Awards	\$1,000	\$5,000	2024-2025	\$1,500

Attachment 1: Celebrate Markham 2025-2026 Annual Funding Recommendations

New Canadian Community Center	24th International Senior Festival	\$0	\$5,000	New	\$0
North America Chinese Orchestra	China-Canada Folk Music Festival	\$3,500	\$5,000	New	\$0
Nova Aurora Music And Performing Arts Group	Thanksgiving Day for Elders	\$2,000	\$5,000	2024-2025	\$1,500
Rolia Cultural Association	2025 Rolia Gala	\$1,000	\$5,000	2019-2020	\$3,000
Rougevalley Culture & Economic Development Association	Chinese Dragon Boat Festival Concert	\$0	\$5,000	New	\$0
Senior And Children's Alliance Club	Intergenerational Cultural Heritage Festiva	\$3,250	\$5,000	New	\$0
Shadowpath	Women AI Innovators: Shaping the Future of Arts, Culture & Innovation	\$2,000	\$5,000	2023-2024	\$3,500
The Chinese Canadian National Federation	Chinese Traditional Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration 2025	\$2,000	\$5,000	New	\$0
The Home of the Multicultural Seniors	Markham's Cultural Connections: Celebrating Arts, Heritage, and Culture	\$1,000	\$5,000	New	\$0

Attachment 1: Celebrate Markham 2025-2026 Annual Funding Recommendations

The Music Dreamer Alliance	2026 Top Star Canada Talent Showcase	\$3,500	\$5,000	New	\$0
Toronto Water-Cube Cultural & Arts Centre	Music Melody Arts Festival	\$3,000	\$5,000	New	\$0
U+ Toastmasters Inc.	Markham Voices of Diversity Celebration	\$3,250	\$5,000	2024-2025	\$2,500
Unionville Chinese Soccer Association (UCSA)	UCSA Mini World Cup Festival	\$0	\$15,000	New	\$0
United Hindus Federation of Canada	Hindu Heritage Month Celebration	\$2,500	\$4,000	2023-2024	\$2,500
Vedic Cultural Centre Arya Samaj	South Asian Heritage Month Celebrations 2025	\$2,000	\$5,000	2024-2025	\$2,000
Vibrant Markham Foundation	An Immersive AR Experience - Cultural Architecture Exhibition	\$2,000	\$5,000	New	\$0
Wilclay Womens Group	Tamil Heritage Appreciation Events (ex. Thai Pongal and Tamil New Year)	\$2,000	\$3,000	2022-2023	\$2,000
WushuOntario	2025 International Martial Arts Festival & National Championships	\$4,100	\$5,000	2023-2024	\$4,000

Attachment 1: Celebrate Markham 2025-2026 Annual Funding Recommendations

Yellow Brick House	Celebration of Resilience Sponsorship	\$2,500	\$10,000	New	\$0
York Pride	HallowQueen 2025 (York Pride)	\$3,500	\$5,000	New	\$0
York Region Educational Services	Markham's Youth Volunteer and Diversity Fair	\$3,250	\$5,000	2024-2025	\$2,750
Subtotal		\$140,300	\$652,500		
Total 2025-2026 Funding Envelope		\$140,300	\$140,300		
Difference		\$0	\$512,200		

<p>Major Community Festivals Funding Envelope: \$140,000 Maximum Per Applicant: \$10,000 Maximum Per Established Applicant: \$20,000* 14 Applications Received and 12 Approved by the Celebrate Markham Team Funding is conditional on applicants adhering to the Celebrate Markham Guidelines</p>					
Organization	Application Title	2025-2026 Funding Recommended	Total Grant Request	Most Recent Year Granted	Most Recent Grant Amount

Attachment 1: Celebrate Markham 2025-2026 Annual Funding Recommendations

Canada International Little Stars Association	Youth Horizons: Cultures in Conversation, Art in Action	\$6,000	\$10,000	2023-2024	\$10,000
Canada One Family Network	10th Age of Literati Culture Festival	\$10,000	\$10,000	2024-2025	\$4,500
Federation of Chinese Canadians in Markham	Taste of Asia 2025	\$20,000	\$10,000	2024-2025	\$10,000
Markham and East York Agricultural Society	Markham Fair	\$10,000	\$10,000	New	\$0
Markham Jazz Festival	2025 Markham Jazz Festival	\$20,000	\$10,000	2024-2025	\$20,000
Markham Village BIA	Main Street Markham Festival of Lights	\$0	\$10,000	2024-2025	\$0 (Organization total \$20,000)
Markham Village BIA	Markham Village Music Festival	\$20,000	\$10,000	2024-2025	\$20,000 (Organization total \$20,000)
Pacific Mall	Pacific Mall's Summer Carnival 2025	\$8,500	\$10,000	New	\$0
Rise On Association	Asia Street Festival Markham	\$7,000	\$10,000	New	\$0

Attachment 1: Celebrate Markham 2025-2026 Annual Funding Recommendations

Sprout Organization	Lucky Lion Night Market 2025	\$10,000	\$10,000	2024-2025	\$10,000
St. Panteleimon Anna & Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Church	Markham Greek Festival	\$2,500	\$10,000	New	\$0
Unionville BIA	Unionville Festival 2025	\$20,000	\$20,000	2024-2025	\$20,000 (Organization total \$40,000)
Unionville BIA	Olde Tyme Christmas Parade and Seasons Entertainment 2025	\$6,000	\$10,000	2024-2025	\$10,000 (Organization total \$40,000)
Unionville BIA	Summer music walkup concerts at the Bandstand	\$0	\$10,000	2024-2025	\$0 (Organization total \$40,000)
Subtotal		\$140,000	\$150,000		
Total 2025-2026 Funding Envelope		\$140,000	\$140,000		
Difference		\$0	\$10,000		