



TO: Mayor and Members of Council

CC. Arvin Prasad, Commissioner, Development Services
Brian Lee, Director, Engineering

FROM: Loy Cheah, Senior Manager, Transportation, Ext. 4838

DATE: September 5, 2018

Re: **Steeles Avenue Widening Updates (Wards 7 & 8)**

Background

On March 19, 2018, Development Services Committee directed staff "to provide a presentation to Development Services Committee regarding the widening of Steeles Avenue from Kennedy Road to the eastern boundary of the City of Markham, and include any restrictions imposed by the City of Toronto on development applications within this area."

This memorandum provides an update on the status of road widening projects and agreements between York Region and City of Toronto on Steeles Avenue from Kennedy Road to the eastern boundary of Markham.

York Region and Toronto finalizing agreement on cost-sharing for Steeles Avenue

Steeles Avenue is under the jurisdiction of the City of Toronto. York Region and the City of Toronto are finalizing an agreement to cost-share operations, maintenance and capital improvements of Steeles Avenue for the Kennedy Road to Ninth Line section. The cost-sharing agreement, which has been under discussion and negotiation for over four decades, is necessary to move critical capital road improvement and maintenance projects forward.

Two Steeles Avenue widening projects from Kennedy Road to Ninth Line planned

York Region Committee of the Whole received a memorandum (see Attachment 1) at its June 7, 2018 meeting that provided an update on the status of the two widening projects on Steeles Avenue. Updates on the two projects are provided below.

Project	Update
1. Widening to 6-lanes between Kennedy Road and Midland Avenue and grade separation at the Stouffville GO line	York Region, City of Toronto and Metrolinx partnered to conduct a Class Environmental Assessment for widening Steeles Avenue to six lanes and a grade separation at the Stouffville GO line. The study was

	<p>completed in March 2017 and approved by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change in July 2017.</p> <p>The follow-on detailed design and construction of the project is integrated into the Stouffville GO Regional Rail Express (RER) improvements. That Metrolinx design/build project is currently underway with construction anticipated to start in 2019 and be completed by 2025.</p>
<p>2. Widening to 6-lanes between east of Markham Road to Ninth Line</p>	<p>As part of the Donald Cousens Parkway to Morningside Avenue Link project, Steeles Avenue between Tapscott Road and Ninth Line is to be widened to six lanes.</p> <p>City of Toronto is the lead for the on-going detailed design assignment for the widening, which is expected to be completed in 2019. Construction of the widening is anticipated to commence no earlier than 2021, subject to property acquisition and utility relocation completions.</p>

City of Markham have been involved in the development of both projects in the following ways:

- For the section of Steeles Avenue from Kennedy Road to Midland Avenue, development of the draft Conceptual Milliken Secondary Plan identified access needs to development parcels, relocation and upsizing of municipal sewers, relocation of water mains, closure of Turf Avenue, and pedestrian and cycling access to the Milliken GO station from the north side of Steeles Avenue among other things;
- For the section of Steeles Avenue from east of Markham Road to Ninth Line, the design of the future Kirkham Drive and Steeles Avenue intersection and sewage pumping station in the Fairtree East subdivision plan is being incorporated in the Steeles Avenue widening design project.

Restrictions imposed on development applications within this area

The Fairtree East subdivision plan between the Morningside Tributary and Parkview Golf Course on the north side of Steeles Avenue has been approved with phased development tied to various conditions. One such condition is the southern extension of Kirkham Drive to Steeles Avenue which puts certain development blocks within the subdivision plan on hold pending its construction. Further, the City of Toronto will permit the construction of the intersection only as part of the widening of Steeles Avenue. In the meantime, its design is included in the on-going detailed design assignment of the Steeles Avenue widening project that Toronto is leading.

The Parkview Golf Course redevelopment plan will also be subject to the extension of Kirkham Drive to Steeles Avenue and the widening of Steeles Avenue. A subdivision plan has been submitted but has yet to be approved.

Attachment

A. June 7, 2018 York Region Committee of the Whole Memorandum



Office of the Commissioner
Transportation Services

Memorandum

To: Committee of the Whole

From: Paul Jankowski, Commissioner of Transportation Services

Date: June 7, 2018

Re: **Toronto/York Steeles Avenue Agreement Update
Kennedy Road to Ninth Line**

This memorandum provides an update on the Toronto/York Steeles Avenue Agreement. In December 2017, after many years of discussions, Toronto City Council endorsed the principles of a proposed agreement to implement long-awaited capital improvements to Steeles Avenue that will benefit both York Region and City of Toronto travellers.

Council directed staff to work with Toronto to develop an agreement for Steeles Avenue from Markham Road to Ninth Line

Road improvements to Steeles Avenue, from east of Markham Road to Ninth Line, were identified in the Individual Environmental Assessment study completed by York Region for the Donald Cousens Parkway to Morningside Avenue Link. In addition to widening Steeles Avenue to six lanes from east of Tapscott Road to Ninth Line, the study also recommends widening Ninth Line to four lanes from Steeles Avenue to Box Grove, and the extension of Morningside Avenue from Steeles Avenue south to the existing terminus at McNicoll Avenue, as a new four-lane road. The study was approved by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change on January 23, 2013.

In giving approval to proceed with the undertaking, the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change imposed a number of conditions, one of which requires the development of a cost-sharing and implementation agreement with the City of Toronto.

In [June 2014](#), Council endorsed a set of principles to guide the development of a Steeles Avenue Agreement from east of Markham Road to Ninth Line.

City of Toronto staff coordinated a similar report to Toronto City Council in [July 2014](#) and received endorsement of the same principles.

June 7, 2018

Toronto/York Steeles Avenue Agreement Update
Kennedy Road to Ninth Line

The original agreement limits were later extended west to Kennedy Road

In [September 2015](#), Council agreed to a York Region, Toronto and Metrolinx partnership to cost-share in a Class Environmental Assessment study for improvements to Steeles Avenue from Kennedy Road to Midland Avenue, including widening of Steeles Avenue to six lanes, and a grade separation at the Stouffville GO Rail corridor.

At that time, Council endorsed extending the limits of the Steeles Avenue Agreement to include the entire section from Kennedy Road to Ninth Line. This represents a seven kilometre section of the overall 40 kilometre Steeles Avenue boundary between the City of Toronto and York Region (see Attachment 1).

In [December 2017](#), Toronto Council endorsed the extended Kennedy Road to Ninth Line limits for the Agreement, matching the limits agreed to by Regional Council.

The following is an overview of the Toronto/York Steeles Avenue Agreement:

- The proposed agreement is for a term of ten years, from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2028
- Toronto will maintain jurisdictional ownership over Steeles Avenue
- Toronto will operate and maintain Steeles Avenue on behalf of both parties, including traffic systems, guided by mutually-agreed standards and protocols
- A joint, ten-year capital plan will be created for consideration by both Councils; capital works will need to be approved by both Councils
- All municipal maintenance, operations and capital costs will be split equally
- Toronto will be responsible for planning, design and construction of all capital works and the Region will be a co-proponent
- City of Toronto will acquire any lands necessary for capital works

Local residents and businesses will benefit from improvements to Steeles Avenue

City of Markham residents and businesses will benefit from the Steeles Avenue road widening and grade separation projects that have already been advanced with Regional cost-sharing. These projects will also include improvements to sidewalks, bike lanes, streetscape and transit facilities.

June 7, 2018

Toronto/York Steeles Avenue Agreement Update
Kennedy Road to Ninth Line

In addition, a new municipal road intersection is currently proposed for the Forest Bay Homes subdivision on the north side of Steeles Avenue between the Morningside tributary and the Parkview Golf Course. This proposed intersection is being included in the ongoing design assignment for Steeles Avenue, from east of Markham Road to Ninth Line, and is expected to be constructed concurrently with the Steeles Avenue widening.

Staff have been working with City of Toronto to advance two Steeles Avenue capital projects

In approving the Agreement principles in June 2014, Council authorized staff to work with the City of Toronto to advance the detailed design for widening Steeles Avenue, from east of Markham Road to Ninth Line, on a 50/50 cost-sharing basis. The ongoing design assignment is being led by the City of Toronto and is scheduled to be completed in 2019.

York Region was also a partner in the Class Environmental Assessment for improvements to Steeles Avenue from Kennedy Road to Midland Avenue. Council agreed to cost-sharing the study equally between York Region, City of Toronto and Metrolinx. The study was led by the City of Toronto and was completed in March 2017.

The follow-on design and construction of the Steeles Avenue grade separation at the Stouffville GO line is being led by Metrolinx

The follow-on detailed design and construction of the undertaking, including widening of Steeles Avenue to six lanes and a grade separation at the Stouffville GO line, has been incorporated by Metrolinx in the Regional Express Rail program. A Metrolinx design/build contract is underway and, in addition to the Steeles Avenue works, the contract also includes construction of double tracks and a number of station upgrades on the Stouffville GO line.

The Region's share for Steeles Avenue costs will be considered as part of the 2019 multi-year budget submission to Council

The Region's current financial commitment to Steeles Avenue is limited to the ongoing detailed design from east of Markham Road to Ninth Line, and the already-completed Class Environmental Assessment for improvements from Kennedy Road to Midland Avenue.

The Region's future financial commitments related to the Steeles Avenue Agreement will now need to be considered as part of the prioritization process used in developing the draft 2019 multi-year budget submission to Council. Operating costs such as those for winter and summer maintenance, operation of traffic signals and illumination, as well as the Region's share of capital costs for various Steeles Avenue improvements, will

June 7, 2018

Toronto/York Steeles Avenue Agreement Update
Kennedy Road to Ninth Line

have to be addressed. These capital improvements will include widening and grade separation from Kennedy Road to Midland Avenue, and widening from Tapscott Road to Ninth Line as part of the Donald Cousens Parkway to Morningside Avenue Link. Construction of the Stouffville GO grade separation by Metrolinx is scheduled to begin in 2019. Construction of the Steeles Avenue widening between Tapscott Road and Ninth Line is anticipated to commence in 2021.

With Toronto Council's approval of the principles and limits previously endorsed by Regional Council, the Steeles Avenue Agreement is being finalized

With Toronto Council's approval of the principles in December 2017, the details of the agreement are now being finalized with City of Toronto staff. The agreement is expected to be in force in 2019 or early 2020.

The Steeles Avenue Agreement supports much-needed transportation infrastructure in the Markham/Toronto boundary area. The agreement will represent a significant achievement in building a partnership with the City of Toronto and will set the stage for an agreement for the remainder of Steeles Avenue and other joint priorities with the City.

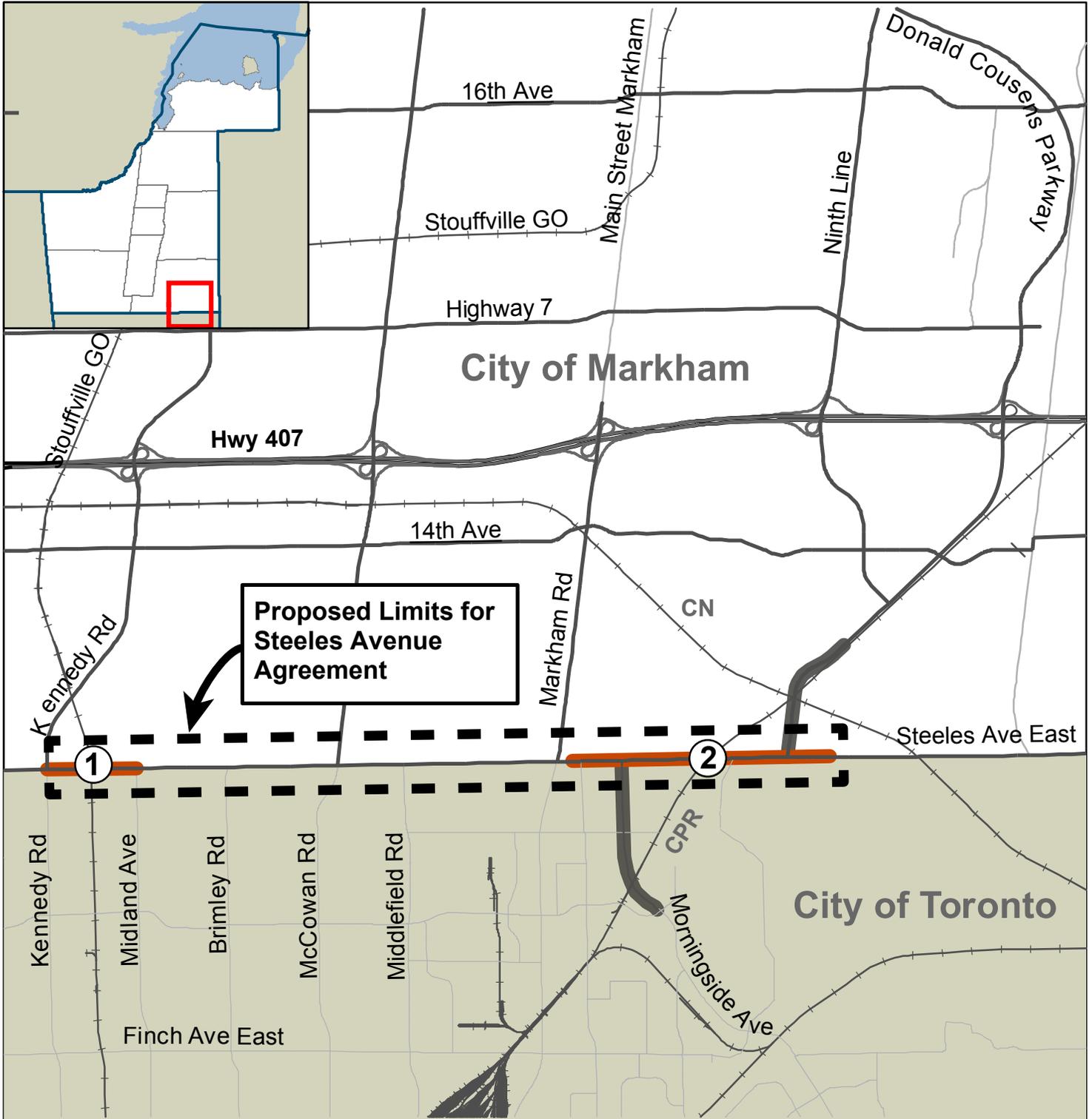
For more information, please contact Brian Titherington, Director of Transportation and Infrastructure Planning at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75901.

Paul Jankowski
Commissioner of Transportation Services

SM/sm

Attachment (1)

8248244



York/Toronto Steeles Avenue Agreement Update, Kennedy Road to Ninth Line

June 14, 2018



Produced by: Infrastructure Management and PMO, Transportation Services
 © Copyright, The Regional Municipality of York, July 2015
 © Copyright, First Base Solutions Inc. 2013 Orthophotography
 * Includes © Queen's Printer for Ontario 2003-2014

Legend

-  Steeles Agreement Limits
-  Project Areas
- ① Environmental Assessment, Steeles Ave. from Kennedy Rd. to Midland Ave.
- ② Detailed Design, Steeles Ave. from east of Markham Rd. to Ninth Line

