



Report to: Development Services Committee

Meeting Date: April 1, 2019

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**SUBJECT:** Update on Active Transportation Master Plan Study.  
(All Wards)

**PREPARED BY:** Fion Ho, TDM Coordinator, Transportation, Ext.2160

**REVIEWED BY:** Loy Cheah, P.Eng., Senior Manager, Transportation, Ext. 4838

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

- 1) That the staff report titled “Update on Active Transportation Master Plan Study (All Wards)”, dated April 1, 2019, be received; and,
- 2) That staff be directed to proceed with the public engagement and stakeholder consultation as outlined in this report; and further,
- 3) 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 and update of the Active Transportation Master Plan Study which started in 2018, including project objectives, major deliverables, timeline and the current status. The report also seeks Council’s direction to proceed with the public engagement and stakeholder consultation program of the study.

**BACKGROUND:**

Markham is anticipated to experience significant growth in population (total 421,600 people) and employment (total 240,000 jobs) to 2031. This calls for a greater need on the overall transportation system to move people and goods more efficiently. To manage sustainable growth to 2031, the City of Markham’s Official Plan (2014) envisions a “transportation system that increase mobility options for all users, including pedestrians, cyclists and transit riders”. The Official Plan also identifies active transportation as an important component of a balanced and integrated transportation system, which aligns with the Metrolinx 2041 Regional Transportation Plan (2018) and York Region Transportation Master Plan (2016). See Attachment 1 for a listing of policy supports for active transportation in Markham.

Markham needs a well-connected city-wide active transportation network to accommodate growth and improve active transportation. In 2018, City Council approved the development of the Active Transportation Master Plan and IBI Group was retained to do this study.

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## **OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:**

### **Key Project Objectives & Deliverables**

The primary purpose of the Active Transportation Master Plan (ATMP) is to identify a well-connected and safe active transportation network and its implementation strategy. In particular, the ATMP aims to achieve the following objectives:

- 1) To fulfill the Official Plan Policy of increasing the level of travel options for all users, and to encourage the use of more environmentally sustainable mobility choices including active transportation.
- 2) To develop an active transportation strategy that looks beyond the network/infrastructure needs and provides guidance on gaining public and political support, shifting behavioural change to foster complete communities and strengthen active transportation culture in the City of Markham.
- 3) To identify improvement needs and design a high quality on-road and off-road active transportation network that is accessible and connect people to where they live, work and play.
- 4) To develop a phasing plan for the implementation of a city-wide active transportation network with consideration for resource and financial requirements.

With a duration of 18 months to completion, the ATMP will have a number of key deliverables, including:

- Review of current active transportation usage through a detailed review of the existing network, future growth areas, current travel/traffic data, major destinations, environmental barriers, maintenance procedures, stakeholder comments, best practices, policies & legislation and more.
- Public engagement and consultation with stakeholders and members of the community throughout the study. It will also create education and outreach opportunities to raise awareness of active transportation.
- Recommendation of an active transportation network that fills gaps and identifies opportunities in the walking and cycling network in Markham.
- Development of a detailed phasing plan and cost estimates that prioritizes projects and funding opportunities for the implementation of the recommended active transportation network.
- Reviews of facility design standards, intersection treatment, cross-sections, surface treatment, maintenance policies, successful education/marketing strategies and staff resources for applications in Markham.

## **Engagement and Consultation**

Public engagement and stakeholder consultation will be a crucial component of the study. The goal is to inspire meaningful two-way discussions on active transportation between City team and different stakeholder groups including the general public, CPAC, businesses, students and more. In addition to the traditional public information sessions, creative and multi-pronged engagement strategies will be adopted throughout the study to target various demographic and socio-economic groups. These include workshops, digital engagement, film screening, walking/cycling tour, pop-up events in mall and community centers.

The first of the two rounds of public engagement sessions is expected to take place in April this year. The primary goal of this first public engagement session is to launch the ATMP publicly, better understand stakeholders' needs and concerns, and gather input on the current state of active transportation in Markham. The second round of public engagement is anticipated to occur in the Fall of 2019 upon the development of a recommended active transportation network. The objectives of the second public engagement session are to obtain feedback on the emerging directions and recommended network, and identify any outstanding issues or comments to be addressed through the ATMP.

The final deliverable of the ATMP will include a final report that consolidates all comments and technical analysis throughout the project. This is anticipated to be completed by Summer-Fall of 2020. Ultimately, the ATMP Study will identify a city-wide active transportation network and a feasible implementation phasing plan for Markham. Policy and network recommendations of the ATMP will be considered for inclusion into the next update of the City Official Plan.

## **Project Current Status & Next Steps**

Within the first 3 months, IBI has completed a background technical review. IBI and City staff are also working together to prepare for the first round of public and stakeholder consultation scheduled for Spring 2019. This initial round of consultation will allow the following:

- Launch the study publicly, gather input on the current state of active transportation, and better understand the current use of active transportation in Markham
- Understand stakeholders' needs and concerns for active transportation in Markham
- Gather input and opinions to inform strategic direction and network development which will help guide the next phase of the study
- Generate excitement and raise the awareness of active transportation in Markham

Staff will keep City Council informed of the project progress through the delivery of presentation and/or council reports at key project milestones.

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**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

There is no financial implication in adopting these recommendations. Budget for the ATMP study was approved in 2018 (account # 640-101-5699-18040).

**HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS**

Not Applicable

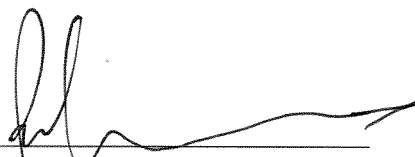
**ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**


The ATMP Study aligns with the strategic focus for a Safe & Sustainable Community by improving and making active transportation as an attractive and sustainable mobility option. This is also consistent with the policies of the City Official Plan.

**BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:**

Not Applicable

**RECOMMENDED BY:**

  
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Brian Lee, P.Eng.  
Director, Engineering

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

Attachment

1. Listing of policy supports for active transportation in Markham