Highway 404 Mid-Block Crossings Study
Markham and Richmond Hill

Presentation to
Markham Development Services Committee
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September 11, 2012
Presentation Overview

- Background
- Study Conclusions & Recommendations
- Recommendations for Moving Forward
- Next Steps
Importance of Midblock Crossings

- Provide better connectivity across the Highway 404 barrier which implies a more efficient transportation network
- Allow improved transit connectivity
- Allow bike facilities on lower volume streets
- Encourage walking with smaller block size
- Distribute traffic over more crossings and reduce trip length and environmental impact
- Increase road capacity
Background

- Mid-block crossings are identified in various York Region, Markham and Richmond Hill plans
- March 2008 – Markham Council suspends Class EA of mid-block crossing north of Major Mackenzie Dr
- June 2009 - Regional Council requested collaboration from Markham and Richmond Hill to develop implementation framework to protect, fund and construct future mid-block crossings
- December 2009 - Markham Council authorized staff to participate in the study
Collaborative Approach

- Jan 2010 – York Region, Markham and Richmond Hill established working group to identify next steps for the mid-block crossings

- Fall 2010 – York Region initiated a joint study with Markham and Richmond Hill including full collaboration with the MTO and area landowners/developers
Study Focus

Mid-Block Collector Road Crossings:
1. Between 19th Ave and Elgin Mills Rd
2. Between Elgin Mills Rd & Major Mackenzie Dr
3. Between Major Mackenzie Dr and 16th Ave

4. NB Off-Ramp extension at Elgin Mills Rd

5. 19th Avenue Interchange

Other key elements with completed EA:
6. Mid-block crossing between Hwy 7 & 16th Ave
7. NB Off-Ramp extension at Highway 7
8. NB Off-Ramp extension at Major Mackenzie Dr
Current Status
Mid-block crossings

1. Mid-block crossing north of Elgin Mills Rd
   - Feasibility study completed by Markham
   - Class EA study required
   - York Region continuing to protect for a future crossing

2. Mid-block crossing north of Major Mackenzie Dr
   - Class EA suspended by Markham Council in 2008
   - York Region continuing to protect for future crossing

3. Mid-block crossing north of 16th Ave
   - Feasibility study completed by Markham
   - Class EA study required
   - York Region continuing to protect for a future crossing

6. Mid-block crossing north of Hwy 7
   - Class EA completed and approved
   - Detailed design underway by Markham – 2012 completion
   - Construction schedule for 2013/2014 subject to Markham & Richmond Hill agreement (not in place yet) and property acquisition
Current Status
Ramp extensions / interchange

5. 19th Ave interchange and 19th Ave widening
   - Feasibility study and Class EA study required
   - Property required
   - MTO not prepared to assist
   - Cost allowance included into Markham DC-by-law
   - Required for 404 North Secondary Plan employment land

4. Ramp extension at Elgin Mills Rd
   - Class EA study by Markham ongoing

7. Ramp extension at Hwy 7
   - Class EA completed
   - Project on hold pending further comments from the MTO

8. Ramp extension at Major Mackenzie Dr.
   - Class EA completed
   - Project on hold pending further comments from the MTO
Network Assessment

- Regional OP identifies 4 mid-block crossings and 19th Ave interchange
- Travel times by 2031 expected to increase 50% or more even with all mid-block improvements due to background development
- Network capacity increases as number of mid-block crossings are provided
- Pressure to widen east-west arterial roads to six lanes with no mid-block improvements
- Local connectivity and accessibility benefits are as important as traffic capacity benefits

Implement all mid-block crossings or accept a much higher level of congestion and associated impacts
Network Assessment

Mid-Block crossings are important to achieve:

- broader planning and community benefits
- traffic capacity benefits
- synergistic, positive, network-wide benefits cannot be achieved by other means
- reduce pressure to widen Regional arterial

Land Use Objectives
Community Benefits
Transportation Network Development
Traffic and Transit Objectives
Active Transportation
Environment
Study Recommendations

- Implement mid-block crossing between Hwy 7 and 16th Ave in 2013/2014
- Protect for NB off-ramp extensions at Hwy 7, 16th Ave, Major Mackenzie Dr, and Elgin Mills Road
- Initiate Class EA/property protection studies for other 3 mid-block crossings
- Continue to plan and protect other elements including 19th Ave interchange
## Recommendations for Moving Forward on the Mid-Block Crossings

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<th>Markham</th>
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<td>Design &amp; construction lead</td>
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York Region Transportation Committee Resolutions

- Continue to protect and plan for the four Hwy 404 mid-block crossings and full interchange at 19th Ave

- For the Hwy 404 mid-block crossings, York Region commit to:
  - Lead the EA
  - Fund 1/3 share of capital cost
  - Fund 1/3 of long-term replacement costs

- Authorize staff to develop implementation plan with Markham and Richmond Hill and report back on progress
Recommendations to Markham Council

- Endorse the findings of the study and regional staff recommendations
- Direct Markham staff to participate in a working group to develop implementation plan