



Report to: General Committee

Date Report: March 4, 2019

SUBJECT: Operations and Maintenance Agreements for Municipal Highways
PREPARED BY: Alice Lam, Manager, Roads Operations, Ext. 2748
REVIEWED BY: Morgan Jones, Director, Operations, Ext. 4857

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) That the staff report entitled, Operations and Maintenance Agreement for municipal highways, be received; and,
- 2) That the Director of Operations be authorized to execute agreements between the City and other government entities and agencies relating to the operation and maintenance of municipal highways in the City of Markham, provided that the form and content of such agreements are satisfactory to the Commissioner of the Community and Fire Services and the City Solicitor; and,
- 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 seek Council authorization for the City to enter into agreements with other government entities and agencies (such as York Region, York Region Transit, Toronto Transit Commission, the Town of Richmond Hill, etc.) to govern the operation and maintenance of municipal highways in the City of Markham.

BACKGROUND:

Municipal highways consist of the travelled road, the boulevard and the sidewalk used by motorists, pedestrians and cyclists. Jurisdiction of municipal highways within the City of Markham are divided between the Region and the City. The City's Operations staff provide year-round maintenance of the municipal highways within the jurisdiction of the City as well as sidewalks within the Region's municipal highways. Such work includes winter maintenance of roads, road rehabilitation, debris removal, repair, maintenance and replacement of streetlights and landscaping.

In some instances, the City enters into agreements with other levels of government to alter the standard division of responsibility for the maintenance of municipal highways or making more detailed arrangements for maintenance. This is sometimes the case where:

- it would be more efficient and/or beneficial for residents if one level of government assumes the maintenance of a portion of municipal highway that is not within its jurisdiction; or
- more than one government entity or agency has an interest in the maintenance of the municipal highway and improvements installed within the highway.

The following are some examples:

- **Royal Orchard Bus Loop:** The Region has jurisdiction over a small section of the Royal Orchard Boulevard loop from Bayview Avenue. This small section is connected to the City's portion of Royal Orchard Boulevard providing a connection to the Region's transportation network. The City currently maintains the Region's section of the Royal Orchard Boulevard loop to provide residents with the same level of service over the entire roadway. This loop also provides a safe turn around for the City's crews during winter maintenance.
- **Norman Bethune Avenue:** A portion of the 404 overpass referred to as Norman Bethune Avenue lies partly within Richmond Hill and partly within Markham. The City and Richmond Hill have entered into an agreement whereby the parties will maintain the entire overpass on an alternating annual basis.
- **Highway 7 Streetscape:** Highway 7 is a Regional road maintained by the Region (except for sidewalks which are maintained by the City). The Region agreed to install enhanced streetscaping within Highway 7 from Town Centre Boulevard to Sciberras Road on the condition that Markham would share in the maintenance of some of the improvements within the highways, such as the off-road bicycle path.
- **Yonge and Colborne Streetscaping:** Yonge Street is a Regional road maintained by the Region (except for sidewalks which are maintained by the City). The Region agreed to provide a portion of the funding to install enhanced streetscaping within the intersection of Yonge Street and Colborne Street on the condition that the City would share in the maintenance of some of the enhanced streetscaping (i.e. unit paver and enhance concrete planters) within that section of Yonge Street.

DISCUSSION:

Operations and Maintenance Agreement

Staff in consultation with other affected departments will negotiate and finalize agreements with other government entities and agencies (such as York Region, York Region Transit, Toronto Transit Commission, the Town of Richmond Hill, etc.) governing the operation and maintenance of municipal highways and infrastructure within the highways in Markham.

Currently, Staff are required to obtain Council approval before the City enters into any such maintenance agreements.

To reduce staff time and improve efficiency, staff recommend that the Director of Operations be delegated authority to execute future maintenance agreements with

government agencies, provided that the form and content of such agreement are satisfactory to the Commissioner of the Community and Fire Services and the City Solicitor.

Level of Service

The maintenance standards set out in these agreements will be consistent with the City's Council approved levels of service and the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25, *O. Reg. 239/02: Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipal Highways*.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS AND TEMPLATE: (external link)

Additional maintenance responsibilities assumed by the City in the proposed maintenance agreements authorized under this Council report would have no negative financial impact on the City's budget. Costs associated with additional maintenance responsibilities would be paid by either previously approved budgets and/or fee recovery. Staff would need to obtain Council authority for entering into maintenance agreements that would result negative financial impact on the City's budget.

HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS:

Not Applicable.

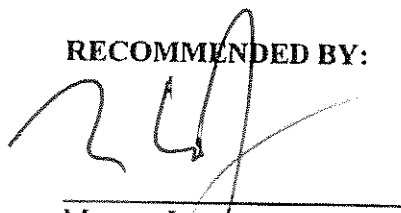
ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The recommendations of this report align with the strategic focus for a Safe & Sustainable Community through the ongoing management of the City's transportation network and ensuring the reliability of City services.

BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

Finance and Legal have reviewed this report and their comments have been incorporated.

RECOMMENDED BY:



Morgan Jones
Director, Operations



Brenda Librecz
Commissioner, Community & Fire Services