

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**

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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.

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.

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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

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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.

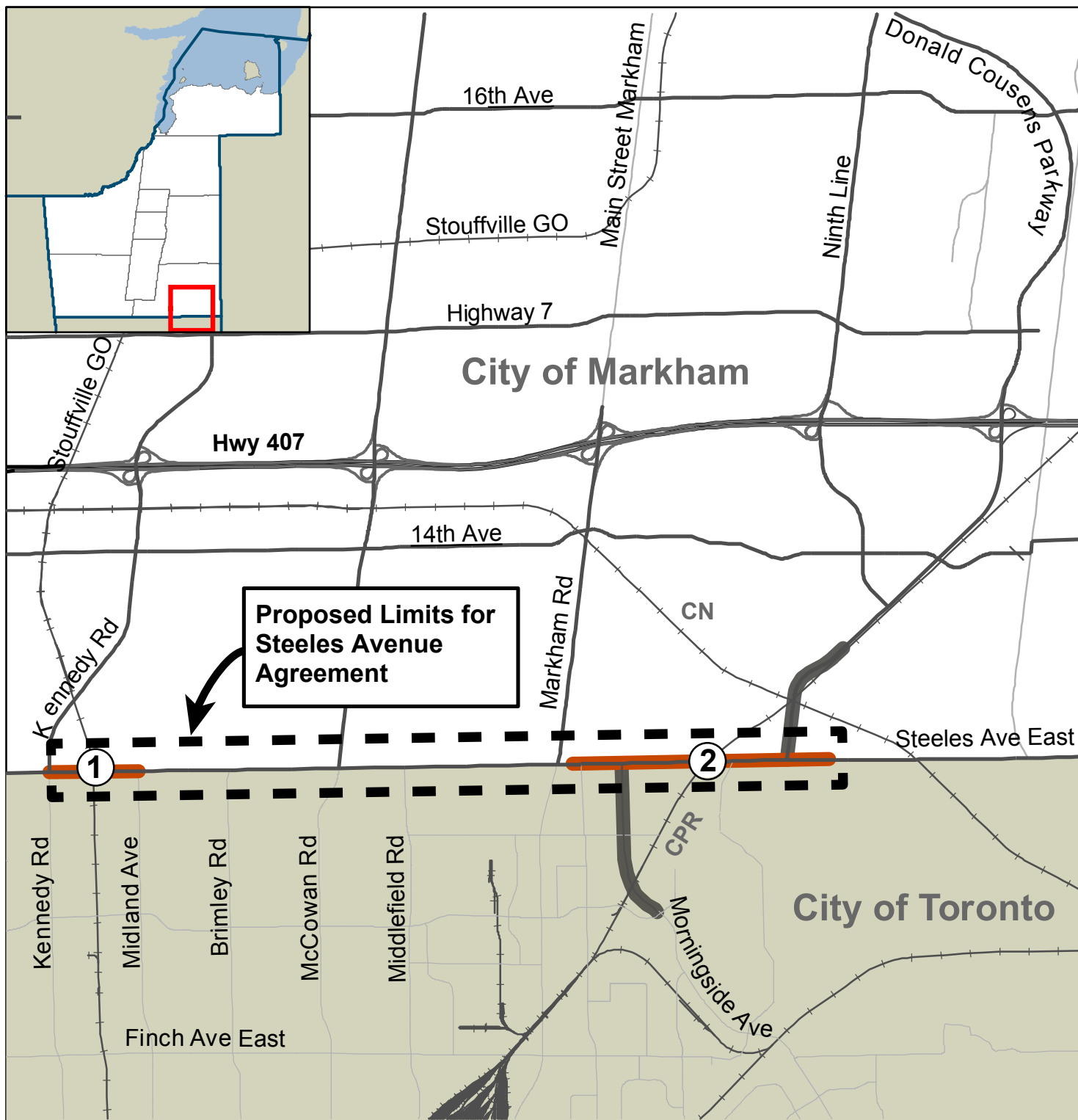
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Paul Jankowski  
Commissioner of Transportation Services

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Attachment (1)

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

June 14, 2018



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### 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