

Electronic Development Services Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Number 23

November 8, 2021, 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Live streamed

Roll Call	Mayor Frank Scarpitti Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton Regional Councillor Jack Heath Regional Councillor Joe Li Regional Councillor Jim Jones Councillor Keith Irish Councillor Alan Ho	Councillor Reid McAlpine Councillor Karen Rea Councillor Andrew Keyes Councillor Amanda Collucci Councillor Khalid Usman Councillor Isa Lee
Staff	Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer Arvin Prasad, Commissioner, Development Services Morgan Jones, Commissioner, Community Services Claudia Storto, City Solicitor and Director of Human Resources Stephanie DiPerna, Acting Director, Building Standards Frank Clarizio, Director, Engineering Biju Karumanchery, Director, Planning & Urban Design Bryan Frois, Chief of Staff Joel Lustig, Treasurer Ron Blake, Senior Development Manager, Planning & Urban Design	Francesco Santaguida, Assistant City Solicitor Alain Cachola, Senior Manager, Infrastructure and Capital Projects Loy Cheah, Acting Director, Engineering John Yeh, Manager, Strategy & Innovation Mark Visser, Senior Manager, Financial Strategy & Investments Hristina Giantsopoulos, Election & Committee Coordinator Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator Alice Lam, Director of Operations Rob Tadmire, Coordinator, Geomatics/GIS Advocate

Alternate formats for this document are available upon request

1. CALL TO ORDER

In consideration of the ongoing public health orders, this meeting was conducted electronically to maintain physical distancing of participants. With the passage of the *COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020* (Bill 197), municipal Council Members are now permitted to meet remotely and count towards quorum.

The Development Services Committee meeting convened at 9:33 AM with Regional Councillor Jim Jones in the Chair for all items on the agenda.

Regional Councillor Joe Li arrived at 9:40 AM.

Committee recessed from 12:30 PM to 1:15 PM.

INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We begin today by acknowledging the traditional territories of Indigenous peoples and their commitment to stewardship of the land. We acknowledge the communities in circle. The North, West, South and Eastern directions, and Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat, Anishnabeg, Seneca, Chippewa, and the current treaty holders Mississaugas of the Credit peoples. We share the responsibility with the caretakers of this land to ensure the dish is never empty and to restore relationships that are based on peace, friendship, and trust. We are committed to reconciliation, partnership and enhanced understanding.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

3.1 SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES - OCTOBER 18, 2021 (10.0)

Moved by Councillor Alan Ho

Seconded by Councillor Isa Lee

1. That the minutes of the Special Development Services Committee meeting held October 18, 2021, be confirmed.

Carried

3.2 DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES – OCTOBER 25, 2021 (10.0)

Moved by Councillor Alan Ho

Seconded by Councillor Isa Lee

1. That the minutes of the Development Services Committee meeting held October 25, 2021, be confirmed.

Carried

4. DEPUTATIONS

There were deputations for the following item:

- 8.1 Active Transportation Master Plan (City-Wide) (5.10)

Please refer to Item No. 8.1 for more information.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

5.1 COMMUNICATIONS - ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN (CITY-WIDE) (5.10)

Note: Please refer to Item 8.1 for staff report.

Moved by Regional Councillor Jack Heath

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton

1. That the following communication from Elisabeth Tan, providing comments regarding the above subject matter, be received for information purposes.

Carried

5.2 COMMUNICATIONS - IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATION FROM THE DEVELOPMENT REVIEW PROCESS ASSESSMENT (10.0)

Note: This communication is with reference to the October 25th Development Services Committee meeting minutes, Item 9.2

Moved by Regional Councillor Jack Heath

Seconded by Councillor Keith Irish

1. That the following communication from Victoria Mortelitti, Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD), providing comments regarding the above subject matter, be received for information purposes.

Carried

6. PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

7. CONSENT REPORTS - DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY ISSUES

7.1 DEVELOPMENT SERVICES PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 19, 2021 (10.0)

Moved by Councillor Keith Irish

Seconded by Regional Councillor Jack Heath

1. That the minutes of the Development Services Public Meeting held October 19, 2021, be confirmed.

Carried

7.2 HERITAGE MARKHAM COMMITTEE MINUTES – OCTOBER 13, 2021 (16.11)

Moved by Councillor Keith Irish

Seconded by Regional Councillor Jack Heath

1. That the minutes of the Heritage Markham Committee meeting held October 13, 2021, be received for information purposes.

Carried

7.3 CYCLING AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CPAC) MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 16, 2021 (16.34)

Moved by Councillor Keith Irish

Seconded by Regional Councillor Jack Heath

1. That the minutes of the Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (CPAC) meeting held September 16, 2021, be received for information purposes.

Carried

7.4 VARLEY-MCKAY ART FOUNDATION OF MARKHAM MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 13, 2021 (16.0)

Moved by Councillor Keith Irish

Seconded by Regional Councillor Jack Heath

1. That the minutes of the Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham meeting held September 13, 2021, be received for information purposes.

Carried

8. REGULAR REPORTS - TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES

8.1 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN (CITY-WIDE) (5.10)

Arvin Prasad, Commissioner of Development Services, introduced the item advising that at the June 21, 2021, Development Services Committee meeting Council deferred consideration of the proposed Active Transportation Plan to a workshop. The presentation being provided today is part of this workshop. The proposed Active Transportation Master Plan is a guiding document for active transportation infrastructure, policy and programming within the City.

Frank Clarizio, Director of Engineering, provided a presentation on the proposed Active Transportation Master Plan. Mr. Clarizio advised that staff are asking that Council endorse the plan in principle, and that the implementation funding of the Active Transportation Master Plan be assessed and included as part of the current Development Charges By-Law update as appropriate.

Ziggy Petch, IBI Group, presented a jurisdictional comparison of walking and cycling.

The following deputations were made on the proposed Active Transportation Master Plan:

- Peter Miasek spoke in support of the proposed Active Transportation Master Plan, noting that endorsing the plan in principle does not commit Council to any financial obligation, as individual projects would be approved through the City's budget process. Mr. Miasek advised that other levels of government are supportive of active transportation and offer funding to support the initiative, such as funds are available through the National Active Transportation Fund. Mr. Miasek compared the high cost of adding one km road to the cost of adding one km of active transportation facilities. Mr. Miasek encouraged Council to endorse the proposed Active Transportation Master Plan in principle.
- David Rawcliffe, Chair of the Cycling & Pedestrian Committee, advised that the proposed Active Transportation Master Plan will create a framework that will help guide the City's active transportation projects. Mr. Rawcliffe noted that individual projects will still need to be approved by Council. Mr. Rawcliffe noted the important role active transportation plays in addressing issues related to climate change, public health, and adapting to new types of devices like e-scooters and e-bikes.

- Steve Glassman spoke in regards to the importance of having an Active Transportation Master Plan that helps prioritize projects from an academic perspective and cited some recent research in the Toronto-area.
- Amit Arora noted that it is vital that the City have an Active Transportation Master Plan that guides active transportation investment. Ms. Arora read a letter from her 4th grade daughter asking the City to make improvements that would make cycling safer, easier and more enjoyable so that children can ride their bikes to school or to a friend's house.

The Committee discussed the following relative to the Active Transportation Master Plan:

- Noted the importance of connecting Markham's active transportation system, emphasizing the importance of connecting it with transit to limit short car trips;
- Advised that there are plans to connect the Rouge National Urban Park trails with Markham's trail system, and that it will likely include a new lake to lake trail;
- Questioned how the placing of cycling facilities on roads will impact traffic congestion, and parking;
- Expressed concern regarding approving the Active Transportation Master Plan without all the supporting information (e.g. how e-scooters and e-bicycles will be addressed and, how the plan will impact traffic congestion and parking);
- Noted the importance of implementing and moving forward with Markham's Active Transportation Master Plan even if a complete set of information is not available, recognizing that Markham's trail system will be developed overtime and that adjustments to the plan can be made as new information becomes available;
- Suggested that the Active Transportation Master Plan should be regularly updated, and that it should include targets that can be adjusted;
- Noted the progress the City has achieved to date with respect to developing its trail system, and that residents from other municipalities also enjoy Markham's trails;
- Noted that active transportation facilities need to be designed to minimize conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists, e-scooters and e-bikes, and motorists;

- Expressed concern regarding the cost of implementing the Active Transportation Master Plan;
- Discussed the cost and usage of building new roads versus the cost and usage of building an active transportation network;
- Expressed concern regarding the cost of building active transportation facilities relative to the usage;
- Noted that important role active transportation will play in addressing traffic congestion in areas planned for higher density (i.e. Markham Centre, and Langstaff);
- Noted that the majority of traffic congestion occurs on Regional roads and that the Region has approved a 1% tax increase to be put towards road improvements;
- Noted that the Development Services Sub-Committees can be used to address issues related to the implementation of the Active Transportation Master Plan, if approved by Council;
- Recognized that multi-use pathways may not be ideal, but that they are the safest option in some places where there is not enough room for separate cycling and pedestrian facilities;
- Noted that the City's Operations Department should be involved in the discussions regarding the proposed Active Transportation Master Plan, such as including Operations in discussions regarding the winter maintenance of the active transportation network.

Staff provided the following responses to inquiries from the Committee:

Loy Cheah, Senior Manager of Transportation, advised that advancements in technology with respect to e-bikes and e-scooters supersede the work that was done on the proposed Active Transportation Master Plan. York Region conducted a study on the feasibility of bike-share services in the past, but the study is now out-of-date. Staff are researching the issues related to these devices and are exploring how they can be programed under the plan. A framework for addressing e-bikes and e-scooters will be brought back to the Development Services Committee in the future.

Mr. Clarizio explained that the proposed Active Transportation Master Plan looks at keeping vulnerable road users safe, and at creating a network for active transportation. Mr. Clarizio advised that staff design cycling and pedestrian facilities to maximize safety and to minimize conflicts. Mr. Clarizio noted that

there are many factors that affect the participation in active transportation including, the availability of safe facilities; the connectivity of the active transportation network; awareness of active transportation options; and the density of the area. Mr. Clarizio advised that cyclists and pedestrians become the most vulnerable road users when dedicated facilities do not exist.

Mr. Clarizio also advised that Markham's roads are generally wider than Toronto roads, which permits for cycling facilities to be added without reducing lanes, therefore, minimizing the impact on traffic congestion. Mr. Clarizio explained that Council will have the opportunity to address any loss of parking or impact on traffic congestion when approving the design for each individual project.

Staff agreed to reach out to Amit Arora regarding her cycling safety concern to see if it can be addressed.

The Committee requested that this item be brought forward to Council for its consideration on November 23rd, rather than on November 9, 2021.

Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti

Seconded by Regional Councillor Jack Heath

1. **That the deputations by Peter Miasek, David Rawcliffe (Chair of the Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee), Steven Glassman, and Amit Arora, regarding the "Active Transportation Master Plan (City-Wide)", be received; and,**
2. That the staff report titled "Active Transportation Master Plan (City-wide)", and the staff presentation be received; and,
3. That the Active Transportation Master Plan be endorsed, *in principle*; and
4. **That staff report back to the Development Services Committee in 2022 on the implementation and prioritization process for the 10-year plan addressing the following issues:**
 - **Define project prioritization process**
 - **Identify the draft short term projects with 10-year plan**
 - **Identify first (5 years) project priorities**
 - **Identify the capital and operating costs**
 - **Identify funding sources for first 5-year projects**
 - **Identify options to address any funding shortfall**

- **Identify resources required for implementation**
 - **Identify ways to minimize the impact to vehicular traffic**
5. That implementation funding of the Active Transportation Master Plan be assessed and included as part of the current Development Charges Bylaw update as appropriate; and
 6. That the City Clerk send a copy of this report and Council resolution to York Region, City of Richmond Hill and the City of Vaughan for information; and further,
 7. That staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Carried

8.2 MAIN STREET UNIONVILLE SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION, SOUTH OF HIGHWAY 7 (WARD 3) (5.12)

Arvin Prasad, Commissioner of Development Services introduced the item, advising that the purpose of the report is to reduce of speed limit on Main Street Unionville, South of Highway 7, from 50 km/h to 40 km/h. The speed reduction is necessary to maintain a consistent approach to how speed limits are applied across the City and to improve the road safety for all road users traveling through the corridor.

There was no discussion on this item.

Moved by Councillor Reid McAlpine

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton

1. That the report entitled, “Main Street Unionville Speed Limit Reduction, South of Highway 7 (Ward 3)” be received; and
2. That the Speed Limit by-law 2017-104 be amended to reduce the speed limit on Main Street Unionville, south of Highway 7, from 50 km/h to 40 km/h, as described in the attached bylaw amendment; and
3. That the Operations Department be directed to install the appropriate signs at the subject locations; and
4. That the cost of materials and installation for the traffic signs in the amount of \$1,200, be funded from capital project #083-5350-21178-005 (Traffic Operational Improvements); and

5. That York Regional Police be requested to enforce the revised speed limit upon installation of the regulatory signs and passing of the By-law; and further
6. That staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Carried

9. PRESENTATIONS - TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES

9.1 ROUGE VALLEY TRAIL - PROJECT UPDATE (6.0)

Alain Cachola, Senior Manager, Infrastructure and Capital Projects, provided a presentation entitled Rouge Valley Trail Project Update.

Committee briefly discussed how the wetlands would affect the Rouge Valley Trail.

Mr. Cachola advised that the Rouge Valley Trail route would change slightly to avoid the wetlands.

Moved by Regional Councillor Jack Heath
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton

1. That the report entitled “Rouge Valley Trail – Project Update” be received; and
2. That staff be authorized to issue the tender for the installation of the directional and regulatory signs for the Rouge Valley Trail; and
3. That staff continue to work on the options for the Wayfinding systems and Interpretive signs for the Rouge Valley Trail System, and report back to Development Services Committee; and further
4. That staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Carried

10. REGULAR REPORTS - DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY ISSUES

10.1 PROVINCIAL CONSULTATION ON BILL 13, SUPPORTING PEOPLE AND BUSINESSES ACT, 2021 (DEVELOPMENT CHARGES ACT, 1997 AND PLANNING ACT) (10.0)

Arvin Prasad, Commissioner of Development Services, introduced the item, advising that the report provides staff comments in response to the Province's proposed *Bill 13, Supporting People and Businesses Act, 2021*. Mr. Prasad advised that the matter will be brought back to Development Services Committee if the Province approves Bill 13.

Mr. Prasad noted that a communication was received from Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD), in support of Markham's recent improvements to its development process.

Francesco Santaguida, Assistant to the City Solicitor, responded to an inquiry from the Committee, advising that staff are recommending to the Province that Part Lot Control be an activity that can be delegated to a committee of council or staff. Mr. Santaguida noted that Council would have the authority to decide which aspects of this process would be delegated, if the Province permitted this.

Committee briefly discussed how Markham has been very progressive in streamlining its development process, and how this should be highlighted in the response to the Province.

Committee approved the motion with the addition of two clauses.

Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti

Seconded by Councillor Amanda Collucci

1. That the report entitled, "Provincial Consultation on Bill 13, *Supporting People and Businesses Act, 2021 (Development Charges Act, 1997 and Planning Act)*" dated November 8, 2021 be received; and,
2. That this report including the recommendations and comments from the City of Markham on proposed additional delegation of planning decisions from Bill 13, *Supporting People and Businesses Act, 2021*, be forwarded to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing; and,
3. That the Province's proposal to provide for the discretionary delegation of the authority to pass by-laws under section 34 of the *Planning Act* that are of a minor nature to a committee of council or an individual who is an officer, employee or agent of the municipality be supported; and,
4. That the Province be requested to consider a delegation of Council's authority to grant an exemption to Part Lot Control under Section 50(7) of the *Planning*

Act to a committee of council, or an individual who is an officer, employee or agent of the City; and,

5. **That the Province be requested to amend *Bill 13, Supporting People and Businesses Act, 2021* to exempt developments along the Yonge North Subway Extension from the freezing of Development Charge rates at the time of an application for a zoning by-law amendment or site plan control introduced under the *More Homes, More Choices Act, 2019*; and,**
6. **That the Province consider further amendments to legislation and regulations that enhance the ability of municipalities to streamline and expedite the planning process; and further**
7. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Carried

11. MOTIONS

11.1 MUNICIPAL ADDRESSING CRITERIA (10.15)

After some discussion, Committee suggested that the motion be deferred until staff report back with a comparison of how Richmond Hill, Toronto and Markham's Address Policies deal with the use of the number four in municipal addresses.

Moved by Councillor Amanda Collucci

Seconded by Councillor Khalid Usman

That Staff be directed to compare Markham's Address Policy with Richmond Hill and Toronto's with respect to the use of number four; and,

That the the following motion regarding Markham's Address Policy be deferred until staff report back on the matter:

Whereas Markham City Council adopted Municipal Addressing Criteria and an Address Change Policy in 2010 to ensure a coherent and consistent addressing system within the City; and,

Whereas the Address Change Policy does not prohibit the use of the number four (4) in future subdivisions in Markham; and,

Whereas the Address Change Policy requires applicants to pay a \$500.00 administrative fee to change their addresses and to obtain written approval

from each affected registered property owner and to pay to same \$200.00 for their incurred costs; and,

Whereas Markham is the most ethnically diverse City in Canada and strives to make all residents feel welcome; and,

Whereas in Cantonese and Mandarin, “four” sounds similar to “death”; and,

Whereas the City of Richmond Hill eliminated the use of the number four in municipal addresses in 2013;

Now therefore be it resolved:

1. That the City of Markham’s Municipal Addressing Criteria #3 – which stipulates that all numbers are included in the addressing of a street - be amended to reflect the elimination of the use of the number four (4) in future municipal addresses in Markham.

Carried

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

13. NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

Committee briefly discussed the Mon Sheong ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled to be held on Monday, November 15, 2021.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Isa Lee

Seconded by Councillor Khalid Usman

That the Development Services Committee adjourn at 2:38 PM.

Carried