

Special Development Services Committee Minutes

Meeting Number: 5

February 15, 2022, 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Live streamed

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| Roll Call | Mayor Frank Scarpitti | Councillor Reid McAlpine |
| | Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton | Councillor Karen Rea |
| | Regional Councillor Jack Heath | Councillor Andrew Keyes |
| | Regional Councillor Joe Li | Councillor Amanda Collucci |
| | Regional Councillor Jim Jones | Councillor Khalid Usman |
| | Councillor Keith Irish | Councillor Isa Lee |
| | Councillor Alan Ho | |
| Staff | Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer | Darryl Lyons, Senior Manager, Policy and Research |
| | Arvin Prasad, Commissioner, Development Services | Stephen Lue, Acting Senior Manager, Development |
| | Morgan Jones, Commissioner, Community Services | Liliana Da Silva, Senior Planner |
| | Claudia Storto, City Solicitor and Director of Human Resources | Mark Visser, Senior Manager, Financial Strategy & Investments |
| | Adam Grant, Fire Chief | Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator |
| | Frank Clarizio, Director, Engineering | Mary-Jane Courchesne |
| | Biju Karumanchery, Director, Planning & Urban Design | Emily Irvine, Special Project Coordinator |
| | Loy Cheah, Senior Manager, Transportation | Samson Wat, Senior Project Engineer |
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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 convened at 9:32 AM with Regional Councillor Jim Jones in the Chair.

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. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

4. REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

4.1 YORK REGION TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN UPDATE (13.4)

Arvin Prasad, Commissioner of Development Services, advised that this item is to provide an overview and seek Council's input on the draft York Region 2022 Transportation Master Plan (TMP), which includes the draft transportation network plans for cycling, rapid transit and roads. Significant staff comments have been highlighted in the staff recommendation. The next step will be to forward the City's comments to York Region.

Brian Titherington, Director, Transportation & Infrastructure Planning, York Region, provided a brief introduction of the item.

Lauren Crawford, Manager, Transportation Long-Range Planning, provided a presentation on the York Regions Transportation Master Plan Update.

Committee discussed the following relative to the York Region Transportation Master Plan Update:

- The need for York Region and Markham to work closely together to plan how residents will get to subway or GO stations, such as by transit, automobile, walking or cycling;

- The trend to reduce parking at GO stations;
- Finding ways to encourage residents to make better choices in regards to getting to GO or subway stations;
- The importance of the proposed Yonge North Subway having enough commuter parking;
- The importance of keeping transit affordable, noting the positive correlation between transit cost and usage;
- That York Region is studying the integration of transit, the use of HOV lanes, and how residents get to the airport;
- That York Region should consider using more roundabouts, and that cycling and pedestrian facilities should be separate for safety purposes;
- The types of improvements that are being planned for existing roads (i.e. adding cycling facilities, and converting rural roads to urban roads)
- The importance of deciding grade separations on the Stouffville GO line in a timely manner in order to permit for development to proceed (i.e. at Highway 7, and at Kenned Road);
- That the plan needs to do more to address traffic congestion, especially in the far east of Markham where there is still limited access to transit;
- That York Region's focus is on making improvements to existing roads and on providing more transportation options rather than on reducing traffic congestion;
- The uncertainty of future transportation trends due to the pandemic, and the need to plan for a changing world;
- Plans to advance the operations of the Havelock GO Line, and the transit opportunity this will bring to residents living in east Markham;
- The importance of increasing the capacity of GO lines, and using it for urban transportation in addition to commuter transportation in the future;
- The rapid transit the City is recommending for the Future Urban Area employment district;
- The decision regarding the road-rail grade separation on 16th Avenue, east of Highway 48 being subject to the recommendation of the Markham Road/Mount Joy Secondary Plan study;
- York Region's plan to look at prioritizing the GO lines in regards to Regional objectives as part of the study;
- York Region's role in providing electronic charging stations;
- That the proposed Pickering Airport should be mentioned in the study;
- The plan to improve the existing road network rather than extending the Donald Cousens Parkway west of Highway 48.

City Staff, Mr. Titherington and Ms. Crawford responded to inquiries from the Committee.

Staff were requested to keep Councillor Karen Rea, and Councillor Andrew Keyes informed of any updates in regards to the recommendations pertaining to the possible road-rail grade separation on 16th Avenue.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton

Seconded by Councillor Amanda Collucci

1. That the report dated January 24, 2022 entitled “York Region Transportation Master Plan Update” and the presentation by York Region staff be received; and,
2. That York Region be requested to consider incorporating the following changes into the 2022 Transportation Master Plan Update:
 1. Extend the Leslie Street rapid transit corridor via Major Mackenzie Drive and Woodbine Avenue to the employment lands in the Markham Innovation Exchange (MiX) district;
 2. Road-rail grade separation on 16th Avenue, east of Highway 48 be subject to the recommendation of the Markham Road/Mount Joy Secondary Plan study;
 3. Confirm the Regional plan for the Highway 48 – Donald Cousens Parkway connection in the northeast quadrant of the Major Mackenzie Drive/Highway 48 intersection;
 4. Add the Denison GO Station;
 5. Confirm the Regional role and responsibility for infrastructure on Regional road boulevards, including sidewalks, multi-use paths, cycle tracks, and street-lighting, and prepare a York Region 10-year capital plan for the cycling network on Regional corridors that is aligned with the City’s Active Transportation Master Plan and implementation strategy;
 6. Jurisdictional transfer of local Markham roads to the Region, such as 19th Avenue and Reesor Road, as they increasingly serve a Regional function; and,
3. That comments in this staff report and additional input from Council be forwarded to York Region as the City’s formal comments on the draft York Region Transportation Master Plan; and further,

4. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Carried

4.2 OVERVIEW OF DRAFT REGIONAL OFFICIAL PLAN (13.4)

Arvin Prasad, Commissioner of Development Services, advised that this item provides an overview of the draft Regional Official Plan (ROP), which was released for public consultation on November 25, 2021. Staff are currently reviewing the draft ROP and will report back to the Development Services Committee with their comments in late March 2022.

Darryl Lyons, Senior Manager, Policy and Research, advised that York Region held a virtual statutory open house on January 25, 2022 to obtain input on the draft ROP. The Region will continue to obtain input on the draft ROP from its website, and a statutory public meeting to be held in May 2022. York Region is required to bring its Official Plan into conformity with the Provincial Growth Plan by July 1, 2022. To support York Region in reaching its deadline, municipalities have been requested to submit their comments to the Region by March 31, 2022.

Mr. Lyons advised that the City has undertaken extensive consultation on key policy areas that inform the draft ROP, including major transit station areas, employment conversion requests, and land need assessment. Following the City's consultation there has been a significant amount of analysis undertaken, and extensive discussion at Sub-Committee, Development Services Committee, and Council Meetings. This input was considered as part of the Region's ROP review process. Staff's next report on this matter will focus on various areas, such as phasing to guide development, planning for infrastructure, employment area policy and mapping, and housing policies.

Paul Bottomley, Manager, Policy Research and Forecasting, Long Range Planning, York Region, provided a presentation on the draft ROP.

Teresa Cline, Manager, Policy and Environment, Long Range Planning, York Region was in attendance to help respond to questions from the Committee.

Committee discussed the following relative to the draft ROP:

- The need to increase local employment at a quicker pace to stimulate economic growth and to protect the environment;
- How York Region will help attract jobs to the Region;
- The employment opportunities that exist along transit lines;
- That the intensification targets in the draft ROP are minimum targets;

- The need to ensure there is affordable housing in York Region, as income has not kept up with the cost of housing;
- That York Region should set annual targets for affordable housing, and have a broader region-wide policy;
- The need to think about how the City will incorporate affordable housing into its plans;
- York Region has put in place incentives to encourage affordable housing, such as development charge deferrals;
- That York Region will be hiring a consultant to identify housing gaps, and to make recommendations on how to address these gaps;
- How the City can phase in growth and align it with appropriate infrastructure in new community areas;
- That the growth being proposed in the transit oriented communities has not been included in the draft ROP at this time, as the impact of this density on roads, water, and other infrastructure needs to be studied;
- That York Region staff are working with the Province to increase the amount of employment uses in the proposed Bridge Station Transit Oriented Community to ensure it becomes a destination;
- That Canada consider adopting the Singapore Housing Model, where the government owns a portion of the property, as a strategy to make housing more affordable to first time buyers.

City Staff, Mr. Bottomley and Ms. Cline responded to inquiries from the Committee.

Moved by Councillor Alan Ho

Seconded by Councillor Khalid Usman

1. That the staff report entitled “Overview of draft Regional Official Plan” dated February 15, 2022, be received; and,
2. That staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Carried

5. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Isa lee

Seconded by Regional Councillor Joe Li

That the Special Development Services Committee adjourned at 12:10 PM.

Carried