



Format for the May 26 Special DSC Meeting

Council Meeting
May 17, 2022



BACKGROUND

- Markham implemented a hybrid meeting model for Council, Standing Committee, and statutory meetings from the onset of the COVID19 Pandemic.
- There are currently no public health restrictions in place relative to public meeting attendance.



BACKGROUND

- At the May 16, 2022 DSC meeting, staff were directed to report to today's Council meeting regarding the potential format for the upcoming Special DSC meeting on the Provincial Bridge Station Transit Oriented Community Proposal – to be held on **Thursday, May 26, 2022 at 7 PM**.
- Specifically, staff were asked to comment on the feasibility of allowing members of the public the option to attend the May 26th meeting remotely (via Zoom) OR in-person (in the Council Chamber).



Jurisdictional Scan - York Region

Municipality	Hybrid Meeting: Can Members of Council Attend In-Person or Remotely	Are Meetings Open to the Public to Attend In-Person
Aurora	Yes	Yes
East Gwillimbury	Yes	Yes
Georgina	No Remote only	No remote only
King	No Remote only	No remote only
Newmarket	Yes	Yes
Richmond Hill	Yes	Yes
Stouffville	No – In person only	Yes
Vaughan	Yes	Yes
York Region	No Remote only	No remote only



Jurisdictional Scan - Ontario

Municipality	Hybrid Meeting: Can Members of Council Attend In-Person or Remote	Are Meetings Open to the Public to Attend In-Person or Remote
Ajax	No Remote only – Chambers needs to undergo upgrades	No Remote only – Chambers needs to undergo upgrades
Barrie	Yes	Yes
Cambridge	No Remote only – Chambers needs to undergo upgrades	No remote only - Chambers needs to undergo upgrades
Mississauga	Yes	Yes
Oakville	Yes	No remote only
Oshawa	Yes	Yes
Pickering	Yes	Yes
Thunder Bay	Yes	Yes
Whitby	Yes	Yes - starting June 6



Discussion

- As of May 9, 2022, Members of Council have the option to attend Council, Standing Committee, or Statutory Public meetings in-person (in the Chamber) or remotely (via Zoom).
- Prior to making this option available, the Council Chamber was deep-cleaned and the HVAC system was upgraded to improve health and safety.
- From an operational perspective, staff are able to support in-person, full capacity attendance in the Council Chamber for the public for the May 26th meeting should Council decide to proceed with this option.
- One of the implications of allowing in-person public attendance for the May 26th meeting is that it may become an expectation that all future Council, Standing Committee and Statutory Public meetings will also allow in-person public attendance.



Discussion (Cont'd)

If members of the public are permitted to attend the May 26th meeting in-person, staff will undertake the following at minimal additional cost:

- Communicate the attendance options available for the meeting using the City's various communication channels;
- Enhance the cleaning and sanitization protocol for the Great Hall and Council Chamber leading up to and following the May 26th meeting;
- Open the Great Hall entrance to the public 30 minutes prior to the meeting;
- Post 2 additional Security Guards in the Great Hall area to assist with customer service, access and ensure general safety and security;
- Enable use of the accessible public washrooms in the lower atrium; and,
- Position hand sanitizing stations at the entrance to the Chamber.



Next Steps

- Once staff receives Council direction, the necessary arrangements will be made for the May 26th Special DSC meeting.