

Electronic Development Services Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Number: 17
May 16, 2022, 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Live streamed

Roll Call	Mayor Frank Scarpitti Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton 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
Regrets	Regional Councillor Jack Heath	
Staff	Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer Arvin Prasad, Commissioner, Development Services Morgan Jones, Commissioner, Community Services Adam Grant, Fire Chief Frank Clarizio, Director, Engineering Biju Karumanchery, Director, Planning & Urban Design Bryan Frois, Manager of Executive Operations & Strategic Initiatives Joel Lustig, Treasurer Michael Toshakovski, Deputy City Solicitor Brad Roberts, Manager, Zoning and Special Projects Mark Visser, Senior Manager, Financial Strategy & Investments	Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator Patrick Wong, Senior Natural Heritage Planner Erica Alligood, Election and Committee Coordinator Samson Wat, Senior Project Engineer Chris Rickett, Director, Economic Development, Culture and Entrepreneurship Rajeeth Arulanantham, Assistant to Council/Committee Niamh O'Laoghaire, Manager, Art Gallery Justin Chin, Senior Traffic Engineer Tony Iacobelli, Manager, Natural Heritage Alice Lam, Director of Operations Yan Wu, Public Art Coordinator

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Development Services Committee convened at 9:33 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. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

There were no minutes from the previous meeting to be approved.

4. PRESENTATIONS**4.1 YORK REGION 2022 TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN - RESPONSE TO DSC COMMENTS (13.4)**

Arvin Prasad, Commissioner of Development Services, advised that York Region Staff are in attendance to provide a response to the City's comments on the draft York Region 2022 Transportation Master Plan (TMP).

Brian Titherington, Director, Transportation & Infrastructure Planning, Public Works, and Laura Crawford, Manager of Transportation Planning, York Region provided a presentation on York Region's response to the City's comments on the draft York Region 2022 TMP.

Committee discussed the following relative to York Region's response to the City's comments on the draft 2022 York Region TMP:

- Noted that the TMP should direct traffic away from Main Street Markham rather than encourage traffic on the street;

- Clarified that a Highway 7 rail crossing in Unionville is a topic of future study in the TMP;
- Expressed concern that the TMP treats all York Region municipalities the same;
- Clarified that York Region is working towards a collective vision for its TMP, noting key stakeholders were consulted on the TMP, and that the plan has both a regional and local focus;
- Noted that one of York Region's greatest challenges is related to rush hour traffic, such as the road network being busy during the rush hour but wide open at other times of the day and that many of the vehicles on the road during the rush hour only have one person per vehicle;
- Clarified that the TMP focuses on providing residents with transportation choices to help address traffic congestion rather than trying to solve traffic congestion;
- Suggested that the impact of large developments north of the City on traffic in Markham needs to be considered when planning the road network;
- Noted that communities evolve overtime and that people have choices in regards to where they want to live;
- Suggested that the TMP focuses too much on residents working from home, and on cycling;
- Noted that improving traffic congestion is a top priority and that making transit more efficient helps address congestion;
- Suggested that both Markham and York Region have to look at infrastructure improvements that are within their jurisdiction to address Markham's growing population, as the Yonge-North subway extension and the 407 Transitway will take some time to be built;
- Suggested the first and last km of commuting needs to be studied, as traffic congestion continues to worsen and residents continue to own multiple vehicles due to transit not being convenient;
- Suggested that transit only works if it is convenient, affordable, and fast;
- Suggested that shuttle services should be explored as a measure to improve York Region's transportation system;

- Suggested that transit should be provided to high school student to help address traffic congestion;
- Clarified that York Region uses various types of vehicles in its delivery of public transit and that the type of vehicle used is generally determined based on the demand for the service;
- Noted that attitudes regarding transit are changing overtime and that the younger generations may be more open-minded to using transit and/or less likely to have a driver's license;
- Requested that York Region revise its 2022 Transportation Master Plan to reflect the updated population figures for Thornhill;
- Suggested that York Region continue to work with Metrolinx on determining if grade separations or elevated tracks is the best and most cost effective model for Markham's Stouffville GO rail corridor in crossing the road network;
- Noted that York Region plans to discuss railway corridors with Metrolinx in the fall of 2022;
- Suggested that improving rail corridors could be key to achieving York Region's transportation goals;
- Clarified that the York Region TMP was created based on a point in time.

York Region Staff and City Staff responded and provided clarification to inquiries from the Committee.

Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti
Seconded by Councillor Andrew Keyes

That the presentation on York Region's response to the Development Services Committee's Comments on the York Region 2022 Transportation Master Plan, be received; and,

That Markham Council request that York Region revise or review its 2022 Transportation Master Plan to reflect the updated population figures for Thornhill; and,

That Markham Council also request York Region to continue to work with Metrolinx on determining if grade separations or elevated tracks is the best and most cost effective model for Markham's Stouffville GO rail corridors in crossing the road network.

Carried

5. DEPUTATIONS

The deputations were discussed with the respective item.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

Moved by Councillor Reid McAlpine

Seconded by Councillor Andrew Keyes

That the written submission from Weirfoulds regarding Agenda Item 8.1 – Recommendation Report Unionville Special Policy Area Update File No: Plan 21 139260, be received.

Carried

7. PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

8. REGULAR REPORTS - DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY ISSUES

8.1 RECOMMENDATION REPORT UNIONVILLE SPECIAL POLICY AREA UPDATE FILE NO.: PLAN 21 139260 (WARDS 3 & 4) (10.0)

Arvin Prasad, Commissioner of Development Services, advised that this item is to seek Council endorsement of the updated Special Policy Area (SPA) boundary and to request approval from TRCA, York Region and the Province of Ontario.

Patrick Wong, Senior Natural Heritage Planner, provided a brief presentation on the Unionville Special Policy Area Update.

Representatives from the TRCA were in attendance to respond to inquiries from the Committee.

Christiane Bergauer-Free requested clarification on the new flood plain boundaries, and questioned if the Fonthill creek was included in the new boundary.

Staff provided the following responses to inquiries from the Committee:

Fonthill Creek

Mr. Wong clarified that Fonthill Creek and portions of Toogood Park remain in the floodplain but are not in the recommended SPA boundary.

4812 Highway 7

Mr. Wong clarified that the area of the structure at 4812 Highway 7 was by error designated as part of Greenway System. To correct this error, the property will now be re-designated as Mixed Use Mid-Rise, noting that the valley lands to the rear of the property will remain part of the greenway system.

41 Main Street Unionville

Mr. Wong advised that staff will reach out to the landowner of 41 Main Street Unionville regarding their plans for the property to better understand their concerns. Mr. Wong confirmed that the property is currently in the SPA, and that staff do not recommend removing the property from the SPA. Mr. Wong clarified that intensification beyond current planning permissions is not permitted in the SPA.

SPA Approval Process

Mr. Wong advised that minor changes can be made to the SPA prior to it receiving the Minister's approval of the new SPA. Mr. Wong noted that after the SPA boundary is approved by the Minister, the implementing Official Plan and Zoning By-law amendments will come back to Council for final adoption/approval.

Future Park

Mr. Wong clarified that the SPA process does not affect or predetermine a future potential park at Enterprise Boulevard and Main Street Markham being contemplated through the Markham Centre Secondary Plan update.

Moved by Councillor Reid McAlpine

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton

1. That the staff report entitled "Recommendation Report, Unionville Special Policy Area Boundary Update" dated May 16, 2022, be received; and,
2. That the proposed Special Policy Area boundaries and the Special Policy Area Justification Report be endorsed by Council and forwarded to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and the Province of Ontario (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing & Minister of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry) for their endorsement and approval; and,
3. That upon obtaining the endorsement of the changes to the Special Policy Area boundaries from the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and the Province, the draft Official Plan Amendment, attached hereto as Appendix

‘B’, be finalized, brought to Council for adoption, and forwarded to York Region for approval; and,

4. That upon approval of the Official Plan Amendment by York Region, the Zoning By-law Amendment, attached hereto as Appendix ‘C’, to amend the Special Policy Area overlay on zoning by-laws 1229, 11-72, 122-72, 134-79, 304-87 and 177-96, as amended, be finalized and brought forward to a future Council meeting to be enacted without further notice; and further,
5. That staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Carried

8.2 REQUEST FOR DEVELOPMENT CHARGES DEFERRAL FROM PARYA TRILLIUM FOUNDATION (10.0)

Arvin Prasad, Commissioner of Development Services, advised that Parya Trillium Foundation is seeking a 5 year development charges deferral or an exemption of the development charges.

Mark Visser, Senior Manager, Financial Strategy & Investments, advised that Markham Council can only provide a deferral for the Markham portion of the development charges.

Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti

Seconded by Councillor Andrew Keyes

1. That the letter from Amhad Tabazi, Founder and President, Parya Trillium Foundation, requesting a five year deferral, or an exemption of Markham’s Development Charges, be received, and,
2. That the City defer the Parya Trillium Foundation’s Markham portion of the Development Charges for five years with no Letter of Credit required, and with no interest charged; and,
3. That staff evaluate and report back on the possibility of providing the Parya Trillium Foundation with a full exemption of Markham’s Portion of the Development Charges; and further,
4. That the City request that York Region defer its portion of the Parya Trillium Foundation Development Charges for five years.

Carried

8.3 PATIO EXTENSION REPORT (10.0)

Arvin Prasad, Commissioner of Development Services, advised that this item is to obtain Council permission for staff to prepare a temporary zoning by-law to allow for patio extensions until December 31, 2023, provided the capacity limits of the establishments are met. Mr. Prasad noted this matter needs to be addressed in a timely manner, as the 2020-21 by-law is no longer in affect and restaurants continue to suffer due to the pandemic, inflation, and staffing issues. Mr. Prasad clarified that the by-law is for patios without a tent.

Staff agreed to look at how a sidewalk sale can be accommodated on Main Street Markham during events, noting it is currently permitted as long as the merchandise is on private property.

Councillor Reid McAlpine suggested that parking demand on Main Street Unionville be studied this spring/summer, as the City may start permitting patios to be open on a more permanent basis and the restaurants will be fully open for business. Councillor McAlpine suggested that conducting the study may help determine whether the supply of parking on the street will be sufficient once the street is reconstructed.

Moved by Councillor Keith Irish

Seconded by Councillor Reid McAlpine

1. That the report titled, "Patio Extension Program" be received; and,
2. That Staff be directed to prepare a temporary zoning by-law allowing the expansion of outdoor patios on a temporary basis within the City of Markham and that the temporary zoning by-law be in effect until December 31, 2023; and further,
3. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution

Carried

9. REGULAR REPORTS - TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES

9.1 ROAD SAFETY STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT UPDATE (10.0)

Arvin Prasad, Commissioner of Development Services, advised that purpose of this item is to obtain Council approval to collaborate with York Region to develop

a combined Road Safety Strategy based on common principles, methodology and objectives.

Loy Cheah, Senior Manager, Transportation, provided a presentation on the Road Safety Strategic Plan Development Update.

Committee discussed the following relative to the presentation on the Road Safety Strategic Plan Development Update:

- Questioned if Markham can proceed with some road safety initiatives independent of York Region and other municipal partners, and/or prior to the approval of the final recommendation report;
- Suggested including automatic speed enforcement;
- Noted the high cost of the automatic speed enforcement technology could serve as a barrier, and that there may be other less expensive measures that can be taken to address speeding in the interim;
- Suggested that the City needs to crackdown on traffic issues on local roads, such as speeding;
- Requested that staff re-look at putting speed humps on local roads where speeding is an issue;
- Noted that one speed hump may not be an issue, but that more than one could be detrimental to Fire and Emergency Services;
- Suggested that speeding may be a result of people cutting through communities to avoid the main arterial roads;
- Noted that roundabouts in new subdivisions have served as an effective tool in reducing speeding, and that they could possibly be used in other areas to address speeding;
- Suggested that encouraging students to bike to school may help address traffic issues in school zones;
- Suggested that police enforcement remains the most effective tool to address speeding;
- Noted that a 2023 budget request could be made for safety measures Members of Council would like to implement in the interim.

Mr. Cheah advised that the Road Safety Strategic Plan will address both local and regional safety issues, and that progress reports will be brought forward to Council. Mr. Cheah noted that Council can direct staff to advance a specific

traffic safety project when a progress report is being provided, or any other time. Mr. Cheah anticipated that first progress report will be provided in early 2023.

Moved by Councillor Amanda Collucci

Seconded by Mayor Frank Scarpitti

1. That the report and staff presentation entitled “Road Safety Strategic Plan Development Update” be received; and,
2. That staff collaborate with York Region to develop a Road Safety Strategic Plan based on the combined study Terms of Reference and key deliverables described in this report; and,
3. That staff report back at key milestones during the development of the combined Road Safety Strategy, including on the proposed study design and consultation program; and,
4. **That staff be directed to review the City’s policy in regards to installing speed humps on local roads in consultation with Operations Department, Fire Services, York Region Transit and Emergency Management Services (EMS), and report back to the Development Services Committee; and,**
5. **That staff also be directed to look at improving road safety through : 1) a public education and awareness program; 2) acquiring the necessary resources for the implementation of additional radar speed display boards; and 3) the implementation, on a temporary basis, of traffic calming measures in areas of critical concern prior to the completion of Road Safety Strategic Plan; and further,**
6. That staff be directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Carried

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10. REGULAR REPORTS - CULTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

10.1 MARKHAM PUBLIC ART 2022 WORK PLAN AND ACTIVITIES (10.16)

Arvin Prasad, Commissioner of Development Services, advised that this item is to inform the Development Services Committee on the 2022 work plan and activities with respect to Markham’s Public Art Plan. Mr. Prasad noted that Markham Council approved the *Making Our Markham: Markham’s Public Art Master Plan*

2020-24, in November of 2019, and Markham's *Public Art Implementation Plan 2020-2024*, in February 2020.

Niamh O'Laoghaire, Manager, Art Gallery, provided a presentation on Markham's 2022 Public Art Work Plan and Activities.

The Committee provided the following feedback on Markham's 2022 Public Art Work Plan and Activities:

- Suggested creating an artist village in Markham that could serve as a tourist attraction;
- Provided positive feedback on the Aaniin Community Centre public art installation to be installed in 2022, but questioned where it would be located;
- Questioned where information is posted about public art installations;
- Questioned if the graphics have been selected for the photo-murals for the York University Opening.

Staff provided the following responses to inquiries from the Committee:

Ms. O'Laoghaire advised that the Aaniin Community Centre public art installation, would be located on the west side of the property near the main entrance. Ms. O'Laoghaire clarified that there is always signage about a public art installation in close proximity to the public art work, and that information is generally also provided online. Ms. O'Laoghaire noted that the photo-based murals for the temporary public art program on the west façade of the Pan Am Centre for the opening of York University have yet to be selected, noting the first image is scheduled to be installed by the end of this year.

Chris Rickett, Director of Economic Development and Culture, advised that creating an artist village in Markham, and other investments that could be made to advance art and culture in Markham can be explored when developing the Destination Markham Strategy, and the new Economic and Culture Strategy for Markham.

The Mayor thanked Staff for including a public art installation for Main Street Unionville in the 2022 Public Art Work Plan. The Mayor also advised that he would like to participate on the Public Art Tour, and requested that staff provide him with an invitation to this event.

Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti
Seconded by Councillor Khalid Usman

1. That the Markham Public Art 2022 Work Plan be approved; and,
2. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Carried

11. MOTIONS

There were no motions

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motions.

13. NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee discussed whether Markham Civic Centre should be opened up to the public for the May 26, 2022, Special Development Services Committee meeting on the Bridge Station Transit Oriented Community (TOC).

The Mayor suggested that a consistent approach should be taken when opening Markham Civic Centre, as other groups have also requested to open it up for events or meetings. The Mayor further suggested that it may be more appropriate to hold the meeting at another venue, which has a larger capacity.

The Committee asked staff to report back on the opening of Markham Civic Centre for the May 26th Special Development Services Committee meeting on the Bridge Station TOC at the May 17, 2022, Council meeting.

The Chair advised that the request for Councillors to be provided with authorization to send email notification to residents regarding the May 26th Special Development Services Committee meeting on the Bridge Station TOC, will also be addressed at the May 17, 2022 Council meeting.

Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti

Seconded by Councillor Amanda Collucci

That staff report back on the opening of Markham Civic Centre for the May 26th Special Development Committee meeting on the proposed Bridge Station Transit Oriented Community (TOC).

Carried

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Khalid Usman

Seconded by Councillor Alan Ho

That the Development Services Committee adjourned at 1:10 PM.

Carried