

Head Office

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**Infrastructure
Ontario**

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April 5, 2023

Kimberley Kitteringham
City Clerk & Director of Legislative Services
City of Markham
101 Town Centre Boulevard,
Markham, Ontario L3R 9W3

Dear Mayor Scarpitti and Members of Council:

This letter is pertaining to the staff report for decision from Council entitled “*Proposed Designation under the Ontario Heritage Act, 26 Langstaff Road East, Ward 1*”.

Context

As noted within the report prepared by Markham staff, 26 Langstaff Road East (the subject “Property”) is Provincially owned and contains a vacant one-story building that is in a state of disrepair. Additionally, the Property is the subject of a Ministerial Zoning Order as part of a Transit-Oriented Community (“TOC”) project at the future Bridge station on the Yonge North Subway Extension. The TOC site area is bound by Yonge Street to the west, Hwy 7 to the north, Cedar Avenue to the East and Holy Cross Cemetery to the south.

As part of this program, Infrastructure Ontario (“IO”) has been mandated by the Province of Ontario to build vibrant, mixed-use communities that will bring more housing, jobs, retail and public amenities closer to transit stations. This TOC will feature not only a new subway station and transit hub, but also a vibrant mixed-use community with nearly 20,000 desperately needed homes within walking distance of rapid transit. This project is an important part of the Province’s action plan to address the housing crisis in Ontario.

Purpose

This letter is intended to provide information for Council in its consideration of this item:

1. Expediting Housing Delivery at the Bridge TOC Site

Through continued collaboration with the City of Markham staff, it is IO’s priority to advance planning and construction of the Bridge TOC project. This structure in its current location is an impediment to the delivery of desperately needed housing and public benefits associated

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with the TOC program. The construction of the subway and development at the Bridge TOC site will be performed simultaneously and space for staging and coordination of both activities will be at a premium. The site also requires significant regrading and pre-construction activities to deliver the development.

2. Province Supports Markham Staff Recommendation to Not Designate the Property

As noted within the staff report, IO retained an independent and reputable heritage consultant (TMHC Inc.) to evaluate the cultural heritage significance of the Property. The preliminary results of which found it should not be considered a significant cultural heritage resource. Notwithstanding this, Heritage Markham took the position that the Property should be considered to have local heritage significance. The evaluation report was then updated to note the committee's opinion and reflect municipal feedback available at the time, while stating that the identified municipal heritage status and associated significance may change in the future.

Similarly, IO notes that Markham Heritage staff have found the Property does not meet the criteria outlined under Ontario Regulation 9/06. Markham staff are recommending Council not designate given its “absence of significant cultural heritage value”. This is documented by staff in both the November 9, 2022 report to the Heritage Markham committee and reaffirmed in the current staff report before Council.

Thank you for your consideration of the information above. IO looks forward to continued collaboration with City of Markham on this exciting TOC project. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Grey-Wolf'.

Heather Grey-Wolf