



Report to: Markham Transportation Master Plan

Meeting Date: September 26, 2023

SUBJECT: Markham Transportation Master Plan (TMP) Study Terms of Reference
PREPARED BY: Loy Cheah, Senior Manager, Transportation, Ext. 4838
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RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) That the report entitled “Markham Transportation Master Plan Study Terms of Reference” be received; and,
- 2) That the following TMP Study Terms of Reference be endorsed:
 - Develop a comprehensive consultation plan to solicit public and stakeholder input and feedback on transportation needs throughout the TMP’s development.
 - Complete a background review of relevant information, studies, and data to understand Markham’s planning context and transportation needs in existing plans including provincial, regional, and local transportation plans.
 - Undertake a transportation needs assessment to review existing travel demand patterns and forecast future travel demand. Analyze gaps and opportunities under existing and future conditions to inform development of transportation network options and policies.
 - Establish an overarching vision and guiding principles for the TMP in consultation with internal and external stakeholders.
 - Develop whitepapers on electrification and autonomous vehicles, and transportation data sources, to inform policy and strategy development.
 - Develop a complete streets design guidelines and strategy to enhance transportation options for all road users, providing conceptual cross-sections for all City roads and reviewing road classifications.
 - Develop a micro-mobility and shared-mobility services strategy that integrates new and emerging personal and shared micro-mobility devices into Markham’s existing and future transportation network.
 - Assess the need and justification of specific transportation network improvement options for active transportation, transit, roads, and micro-mobility, leading to recommended revised multi-modal transportation networks.
 - Develop transportation policies for incorporation into the Official Plan update.

- Prepare an implementation plan, including a 10-year infrastructure capital plan and funding strategies to support the implementation of the TMP; and further,
- 3) That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

PURPOSE:

This report seeks Council's endorsement of the Terms of Reference for developing a TMP Study.

BACKGROUND:

The Planning Department is initiating an Official Plan Update to address population and employment growth in Markham up to 2051. As part of this process, there is a need to review, update and develop new transportation policies, strategies and infrastructure plans to accommodate the future anticipated growth in Markham. In early 2023, Council approved a capital project budget to develop the TMP.

Accordingly, staff is preparing to retain a qualified transportation consultant to undertake the TMP Study. The transportation consultant will engage with the appropriate internal and external stakeholders and collaborate closely with staff from Engineering, Planning, and Operations. The ultimate goal of this collaborative effort is to develop a robust transportation policy framework, implementation and phasing strategies, and a 10-year transportation capital program that will effectively support and enhance the transportation system in Markham. By taking this proactive approach and working in synergy with a diverse set of stakeholders, the TMP aims to create a forward-looking and adaptable transportation plan that aligns with the City's vision for sustainable growth and improved multi-modal mobility options.

OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:Study Objectives

The TMP aims to develop a comprehensive and integrated plan that guides the development of the City's transportation system up to 2051. This plan will establish a clear vision for the future of transportation, identify and prioritize transportation needs, provide policy direction, develop specific strategies and a capital program to address existing and future travel demand. The TMP Study objectives include:

1. Analyzing current and forecasted transportation demand;
2. Defining a multi-modal transportation network vision;
3. Creating a transportation policy framework;
4. Developing Complete Streets Design Guidelines and a Micro-Mobility Strategy;
5. Evaluating infrastructure network improvements; and
6. Developing a capital program that prioritizes infrastructure and service enhancements.

Study Area and Horizon

The TMP study will review and address transportation needs for the City of Markham up to the year 2051, which aligns with relevant regional and municipal plans, including the recently completed Transportation Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe by the Provincial government, the Regional Official Plan and Transportation Master Plan by York Region, the ongoing Citywide Parking Strategy by the City of Markham, as well as the upcoming City of Markham Official Plan Update. The TMP study will synchronize these transportation planning efforts to ensure a cohesive and integrated approach, optimizing the effectiveness of the proposed improvements and fostering a well-connected and sustainable transportation system for the future.

Proposed TMP Study Terms of Reference

The TMP study is anticipated to be completed in multiple phases over a two-year period and coordinated with the City Official Plan Update efforts. Key elements of the draft study Terms of Reference are summarized below:

- Develop a comprehensive consultation plan to solicit public and stakeholder input and feedback on transportation needs throughout the TMP's development.
- Complete a background review of relevant information, studies, and data to understand Markham's planning context and transportation needs in existing plans including provincial, regional, and local transportation plans.
- Undertake a transportation needs assessment to review existing travel demand patterns and forecast future travel demand. Analyze gaps and opportunities under existing and future conditions to inform development of transportation network options and policies.
- Establish an overarching vision and guiding principles for the TMP in consultation with internal and external stakeholders.
- Develop whitepapers on electrification and autonomous vehicles, and transportation data sources, to inform policy and strategy development.
- Develop a complete streets design guidelines and strategy to enhance transportation options for all road users, providing conceptual cross-sections for all City roads and reviewing road classifications.
- Develop a micro-mobility and shared-mobility services strategy that integrates new and emerging personal and shared micro-mobility devices into Markham's existing and future transportation network.

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- Assess the need and justification of specific transportation network improvement options for active transportation, transit, roads, and micro-mobility, leading to recommended revised multi-modal transportation networks.
 - Develop transportation policies for incorporation into the Official Plan update.
 - Prepare an implementation plan, including a 10-year infrastructure capital plan and funding strategies to support the implementation of the TMP.

The goal of the TMP is to enable and provide a range of viable travel options in the City, aligning with the City's strategic goals and objectives. The TMP will develop a flexible and forward-looking transportation strategy that enhances our quality of life today and for the future.

TMP Study Deliverables

In addition to the final report for the TMP study, the consultant will be required to prepare interim reports on each of the items listed below at the various study phases. This list represents the minimum deliverables outlined in the draft TMP Study Terms of Reference:

- Consultation Plan
- Background Review
- Transportation Needs Assessment
- Problem & Opportunity Statement, Vision and Guiding Principles
- Whitepapers on electrification & autonomous vehicles, and transportation data sources
- Complete Streets Design Guidelines & Strategy
- Micro-Mobility Strategy
- Transportation Network Plan for all transportation modes
- Transportation policies for the Official Plan
- Implementation Plan

Public and Stakeholder Consultation

In addition to the public, consultation with internal and external stakeholders will be an integral part of the TMP development. The TMP Study stakeholders will include residents, City Council, the business community, the development industry, internal City Departments, external public agencies, as well as other interest groups and advisory committees.

Next Steps

Staff will initiate the procurement process to solicit a qualified transportation planning consulting firm immediately following Council endorsement of the TMP Study Terms of Reference. The TMP Study will take at least 24 months to complete, with the completion

anticipated by the end of 2025. As noted above, the TMP study will include interim deliverables that will enable staff to provide Council with updates at key milestones and phase completions.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Council approved a 2023 capital budget for the completion of the TMP.

HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The study aligns with the City's Strategic goal of building Safe, Sustainable and Complete Communities.

BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

Planning & Urban Design, Engineering, Operations, Finance, Economic Growth, Culture & Entrepreneurship, Sustainability and Asset Management, Recreation Services, and Corporate Communications departments have all been consulted in the preparation of the draft TMP Terms of Reference.

RECOMMENDED BY:

Frank Clarizio, P.Eng.
Director of Engineering

Arvin Prasad, MPA, RPP, MCIP
Commissioner of Development Services