

SUBJECT: Highway 7 Streetscape Improvements from Town Centre Blvd. to Sciberras Road

PREPARED BY: Alberto Lim, P.Eng., ext. 2860
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RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) That the staff report entitled, Highway 7 Streetscape Improvements from Town Centre Blvd. to Sciberras Road be received; and,
- 2) That the streetscape design concept for the Highway 7 right-of-way from Town Centre Blvd. to Sciberras Road as outlined in this report be endorsed; and,
- 3) That the Director of Engineering and Director of Planning and Urban Design be authorized to finalize any future revisions to the streetscape plans; and,
- 4) That staff report back to Council with the operations and maintenance costs associated with the enhanced streetscaping for Council consideration.
- 5) And That staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

PURPOSE:

1. To update Council regarding the proposed streetscape design for Highway 7 from Town Centre Boulevard to Sciberras Road and obtain an endorsement from Council for the proposed streetscaping.
2. To update Council regarding issues associated with operations and maintenance costs of the proposed enhanced streetscaping.

BACKGROUND

In September 2011 Council received a report from staff to authorize a streetscape application to the Region and to endorse the proposed streetscape concept for the proposed Highway 7 widening by the Region from Verclaire Gate to Sciberras Road. Council requested that staff report back on the design of the final cross section profile and streetscape design. In October 2013, Council received a subsequent update from Region of York staff in which the widening of Highway 7 was extended west to Town Centre Boulevard and that the proposed cycle track was moved from the road pavement to the boulevard between the curb and the property line. Following Council's approval of these proposals, Region and Markham staff proceeded with the road widening and streetscape design. The extent of the widening on Highway 7 is shown on the enclosed attachment Figure 1. The streetscape design concept is shown on the attached Figure 2.

Cross-Section Profile

At this time a design for the cross-section has been finalized and is shown on the enclosed attachment Figure 3. The profile was developed in consultation with Urban Design, Operations Department, CPAC (Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee), and the Region of York and includes a segregated 1.80m wide cycle track and a 2.40m wide sidewalk on the boulevard. Enhancement features include street trees, planters and tree grates, decorative paver splash strip and paving between planters, raised median

planters, decorative street/pedestrian light standards and buffer strip for segregation of bicycle/ pedestrian routes.

Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program Application

The York Region Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program (MSPP) supports streetscape enhancement projects on Regional roads. As a condition of funding from the Region of York, it is a requirement that the local municipality cost share 50% of enhanced streetscape proposal. The total enhanced streetscape cost is \$3,927,879.94. The City and the Region are responsible for 50% each of this cost or \$ 1,963,939.97 each.

Phase 1 of the MSPP application for Highway 7 from Verclaire Gate to Sciberras Road, as shown on the attached Figure No. 1, has already received \$1,234,500.00 of funding from the Region. An application for MSPP funding for Phase 2 from Town Centre Boulevard to Verclaire Gate has been filed with the Region in the amount of \$729,439.97 to cover the Region's share of enhanced streetscape. Staff has presented the application to Regional staff and approval of requested funding is expected to be received in January 2015.

The City has already allocated \$ 1,690,826.56 in the Capital Account 11448 for the enhanced streetscape of Highway 7. The balance of \$273,113.41 will be requested in the 2015 Capital Budget request process.

Operations and Maintenance Costs

The Operations Department has confirmed that the proposed enhanced streetscape design with wider sidewalks, segregated on boulevard bike lanes, a buffer strip and raised planters will result in significantly higher life cycle, operating and maintenance costs on this section of Highway 7. Service levels and future budgets will have to be increased to meet the additional demands of the proposed urban streetscape / infrastructure.

As a condition of the MSPP application, the City of Markham is required to submit a letter of commitment stating that the municipality agrees to be responsible for the full maintenance of the above noted streetscape enhancements. In response to this prerequisite, staff have advised the Region that there should be joint funding for future operations and maintenance requirements and that policies/ guidelines are needed to confirm obligations of all parties. Staff will prepare a joint operations and maintenance funding policy with the Region and report to Council with recommendations at a future date.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS AND TEMPLATE: (external link)

Staff will report back to Council on a draft policy regarding enhanced streetscaping in particular the operations and maintenance costs and funding sources.

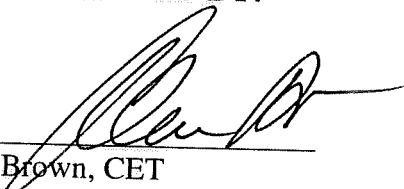
ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

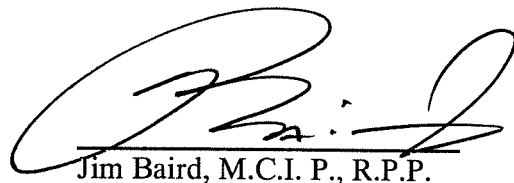
Streetscape improvements along Highway 7 are consistent with the proposed Markham Centre Streetscape Standards and Street Hierarchy. Highway 7 is defined as a "Gold" level treatment which is the highest level of streetscape treatment. This section of Highway 7 meets many of the required funding factors for the Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program.

BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

Operations Department and Urban Design have reviewed this report and their comments have been incorporated.

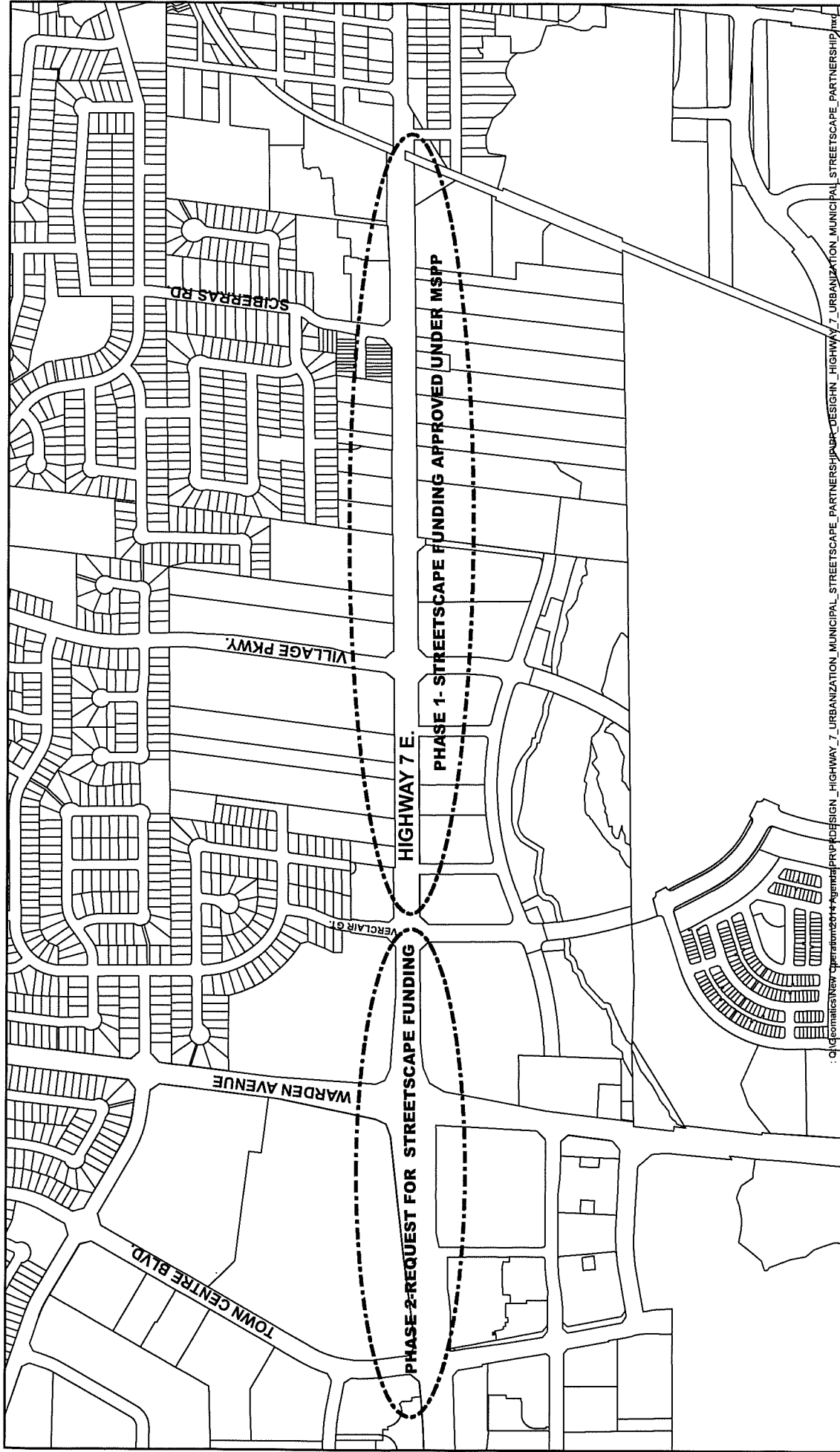
RECOMMENDED BY:


Alan Brown, CET
Director of Engineering


Jim Baird, M.C.I. P., R.P.P.
Commissioner, Development Services

ATTACHMENTS:

- Figure 1 – Location Map and Phasing Plan
- Figure 2 - Enhanced Streetscape Concept
- Figure 3 – Cross-Section



LOCATION MAP AND PHASING PLAN

APPLICANT: CITY OF MARKHAM


 SUBJECT LANDS

FIGURE 2 - ENHANCED STREETSCAPE CONCEPT

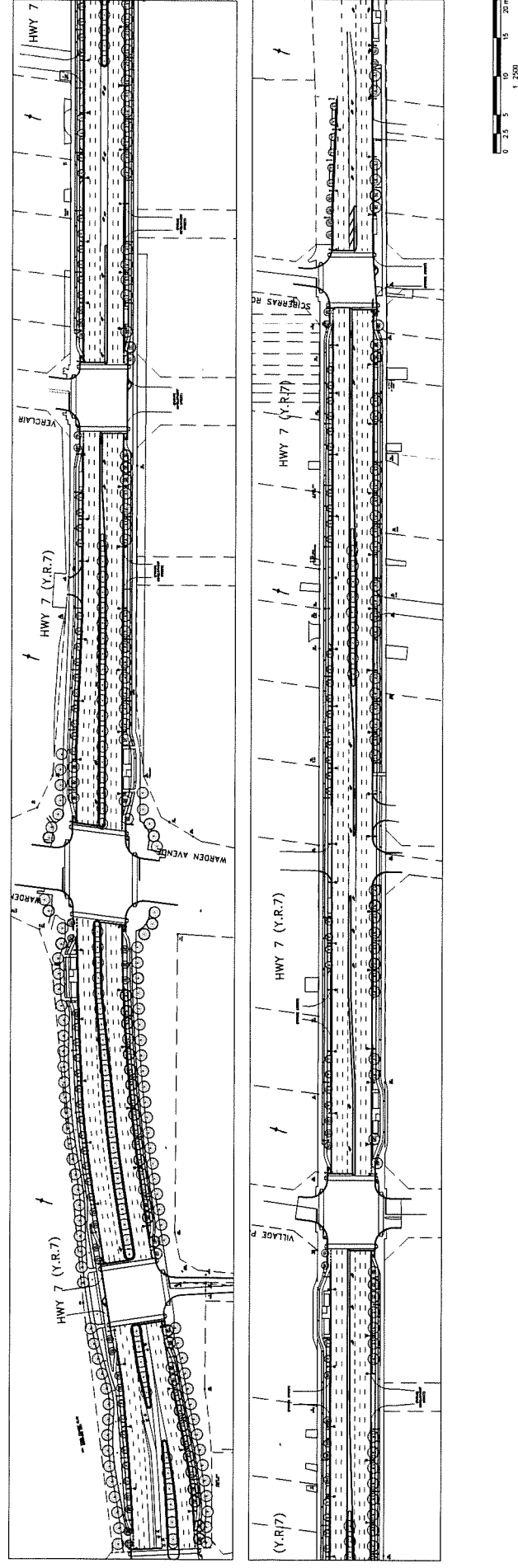


FIGURE 3

HIGHWAY 7 - WARDEN AVENUE TO SCIBERRAS

CROSS SECTION 'A' -1

