



Report to: Development Services Committee

Report Date: September 27, 2011

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION REPORT
Update on renaming the Town owned section of Highway 48 to Markham Road

PREPARED BY: Robert Tadmor, Coordinator of Geomatics/GIS Advocate, ext. 6810

REVIEWED BY: Tim Lambe, Manager, Policy & Research

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) That the report entitled "Update on renaming the Town owned Section of Highway 48 to Markham Road", dated September 27, 2011, be received;
- 2) And that the proposed renaming of the Town owned section of Highway 48 between 16th Avenue and Major Mackenzie Drive from Highway 48 to Markham Road be scheduled for consideration at a meeting of Council, open to the public;
- 3) And that notification of Council's consideration of the proposed renaming be provided in a manner deemed appropriate by the Town Clerk;
- 4) And that a draft by-law dealing with the name change be prepared for consideration by Council;
- 5) And that Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to these resolutions.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Not applicable.

PURPOSE:

This report provides a summary of the issues raised by residents and business owners at a community information meeting regarding the proposed renaming for the Town owned section of Highway 48 between 16th Avenue and Major Mackenzie Drive from Highway 48 to Markham Road. It also includes a request from Staff to consider the matter at a Council meeting open to the public with proper notification given by the Clerk's Department.

BACKGROUND:

On March 7, 2007 the Ontario Executive Council passed an Order in Council to transfer jurisdiction and control of the section of Highway 48 between 16th Avenue and Major Mackenzie Drive (Figure 1) from the Ministry of Transportation to the Town of Markham. This came about after several Council requests to the Ministry of Transportation to transfer jurisdiction over this section of the road to the Town. The transfer permitted the Town to redefine this section of road from a provincial highway to

an urban arterial road similar to the section of Markham Road south of the Main Street Markham section. This change in function can be further supported by renaming the section to Markham Road.

The address numbers for the section of Highway 48 between 16th Avenue and Major Mackenzie Drive would remain unchanged, because they follow a standard progression of increasing address numbers from where Markham Road addresses currently end, at the south end of Main Street Markham South, and where they would have continued increasing, northward, along the length of Main Street Markham South and Main Street Markham North to 16th Avenue. Only the name of the road section would change.

On June 15, 2010, Planning Staff submitted a report to Development Services Committee requesting authorization to initiate the process for renaming the Town owned section of Highway 48 to Markham Road. Staff also requested approval for a public consultation meeting to inform and obtain comments from land owners abutting the affected section of Highway 48 about the proposed renaming. Staff was to report back to Council on this meeting, prior to Council providing a final direction regarding the name change.

OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:

A public consultation meeting was held at the Markham Museum on June 16th 2011 to inform affected land owners about the recommended name change and to obtain their comments about this proposal. Notices were sent by the Ward 4 and Ward 5 Councillors' assistants to land owners up to 200 metres west and east of Highway 48. A total of three land owners attended the meeting. All three were residents and one was also a business owner located on the affected section of Highway 48. Staff made a presentation describing the reasoning for the renaming and identifying the process involved in the name change. The two residents had no concerns over the name change. The business owner wanted to understand the reasoning for the name change. He indicated that one name was as good as another. The Councillors and Staff explained the changing role of this section of Highway 48 to an urban arterial road, the type of development proposed for the area and the proposed change in design of the road cross section.

The business owner's principal concern was with the costs that would be incurred by the businesses he owns when having to change their addresses from Highway 48 to Markham Road, and inquired with the Ward Councillors about the possibility of compensation. He mentioned having 15 holding companies that would be affected by the street name change. There are presently 36 Highway 48 municipal addresses on 27 properties that would be affected by the name change. Some of these properties are occupied by multiple businesses.

The Town does not have a compensation policy related to a street name change, but has a clause in the Council adopted "Address Change Policy" that requires compensation. The policy stipulates that a property owner requesting an address number change that requires a change of address for other properties is required to compensate each affected property

owner in the amount of \$200.00 for costs incurred. Council may wish to consider this type of compensation for affected owners.

The process for renaming the Town owned section of Highway 48 to Markham Road requires consideration by Council at a meeting open to the public to be held prior to the passing of a by-law to effect the name change. The Clerks Department would assist with a public notification for the meeting and the passing of a street renaming by-law.

It is recommended that the renaming of the section of Highway 48 between 16th Avenue and Major Mackenzie Drive to Markham Road be considered at a Council meeting open to the public. It is further recommended that notification of consideration of the renaming at the meeting be provided by the Clerk's Department in a manner deemed appropriate by the Clerk, and that a street renaming by-law be available at the meeting for adoption.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS AND TEMPLATE: (external link)

Council may wish to consider compensation to affected properties, as discussed above.

HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:


Transportation and growth management.

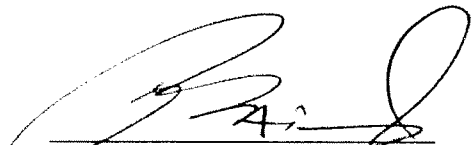
BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

The Clerks Department was consulted with respect to street name change procedures. The Engineering and Operations Departments were also consulted and have no concerns.

RECOMMENDED

BY:


Rino Mostacci, M.C.I.P. R.P.P.
Director of Planning & Urban
Design


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

ATTACHMENTS:

Figure 1 – Highway 48 between 16th Avenue and Major Mackenzie Drive