

**SUBJECT:** York Region's Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program Application

**PREPARED BY:** Tanya Lewinberg – Public Realm Coordinator  
Raymond Law – Manager, Business and Technical Services

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

- 1) THAT the report dated June 12, 2018 entitled “York Region’s Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program Application” be received; and
- 2) THAT Council support and endorse the conceptual design proposal of a gateway feature for pedestrian entry to the Anthony Roman Centre on the Regional right-of-way of Highway 7 and Warden Avenue; and
- 3) THAT Council support and endorse a submission for the 2019 application to York Region’s 2019 *Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program* (MSPP) for cost sharing of the installation and consultant fee and to assume maintenance for the enhanced streetscaping; and
- 4) THAT the Director of Operations be authorized to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Region to maintain the feature within the Regional right-of-way; and
- 5) THAT Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement from Council to enter into a cost-sharing partnership with the Regional Municipality of York through the *Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program* (MSPP) to build and maintain a pedestrian scale gateway feature at the north-west corner of Highway 7 and Warden Avenue, on Regional land.

**BACKGROUND:**

In 2006 York Region established a partnership funding program called the *Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program* (MSPP). The program allows municipalities to apply for cost sharing on projects related to streetscape enhancements along Regional roads. The gateway feature project meets the application criteria, and may be eligible to receive partial funding, up to 33 per cent of the total cost of the project.

Municipalities must submit a preliminary application for the MSPP by June 1<sup>st</sup> 2018. The preliminary application must include:

- A completed application form;
- Application submission review forms;
- Local Council resolution for cost sharing and maintenance;
- Local Council endorsed plans, studies, or guidelines that demonstrate vision for the community;
- Preliminary design concept and key map; and
- Preliminary cost estimate.

An application for partial funding of the gateway feature was submitted on May 31, 2018. York Region has made a special consideration to allow the City to submit the endorsement by Council at a later date, after the initial submission of the application package. September 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 is the deadline for the final design submission for the MSPP, at which time a full set of drawings and specifications must be submitted for the project as well as a maintenance agreement. Also at this time the Region will notify the City as to whether the grant application has been successful.

If the City's application is unsuccessful, the project will still proceed and a capital project request form will be submitted as part of the 2019 Capital budget process for the total estimated cost of the project (\$294,392 inclusive of HST impact), subject to Council approval.

The Regional Streetscape Project on Highway 7, in proximity to Warden Avenue is near completion. Staff have identified the corner of Highway 7 and Warden Avenue as an important gateway location, as the pedestrian entry to the Anthony Roman Centre. The feature will extend the presence of the building out to the street, highlighting the City's seat of government for all who pass by the intersection. This work was originally deferred, awaiting the completion of the Regional works along Highway 7.

Enhancing the presence of the Anthony Roman Centre on Highway 7 will improve the streetscape of the Highway 7 corridor. Further, a feature will encourage residents and Staff to use the Anthony Roman Centre's large park like setting for passive recreation.

#### **OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:**

The City approved, in 2014, the Public Realm Strategy, that has one component focused on gateways. The first gateway that was completed was at John Daniels Park at the intersection of Markham Road and Steeles Avenue, funded partially with Canada 150 funds. The Civic Centre gateway feature is proposed to be constructed within the Regional right-of-way off Highway 7, adjacent to the Anthony Roman Centre lands. From the street, the most visible part of the building is the rotunda of the Council Chambers. It is this rotunda that forms the main element of the gateway design (see attachment 1). The gateway feature is multi-functional; to address the streetscape of Highway 7 and Warden Avenue, to extend the presence of the Anthony Roman Centre closer to the street, to provide some protected pedestrian scale seating in this busy location, and to improve access to the pedestrian entry point of the Anthony Roman Centre, the ice rink and the Flato Markham Theatre, for those using active transportation. The plan also includes the addition of paving to the area, creating a plaza, and will be accompanied by additional plantings.

The focus of the design development was the north-west corner of Highway 7 and Warden Avenue, up to the Anthony Roman Centre itself. In addition the plan incorporates signage on the face of the rotunda, in the form of back-lit signage constructed from metal, indicating "MARKHAM". The signage on the building is not included here as part of the Regional proposal, but will be undertaken within the Public Realm Program prior to undertaking the gateway. Further, it is not eligible for MSPP funding, because it is not directly related to the streetscape of Highway 7 and Warden. The overall plan (see attachment 2), addresses improvements to the pathway leading toward the building, and leveling out the steep slopes by the culvert near the storm water management facility. Further detail will be provided to Council regarding the work to be undertaken within the Anthony Roman Centre lands as part of a request through the 2019 capital budget process.

### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The total estimated cost of the project is \$294,392 inclusive of HST impact.

If the City's application is successful, a capital project request form will be submitted by Operations as part of the 2019 capital budget process for the City's share of 67% of the total project cost, estimated at \$197,243 inclusive of HST impact ( $\$294,392 \times 67\%$ ). The Region's share of the total cost will be 33% or \$97,149 inclusive of HST impact, and will be funded through the MSPP grant.

In the event that the City's application is unsuccessful, the project will still proceed and a capital project request form will be submitted as part of the 2019 capital budget process for a total estimated cost of \$294,392 inclusive of HST impact. The impact to the operating budget is approximately \$4,200 annually for ongoing maintenance requirements.

The total cost of the asset (\$294,392) will be added to the City's Life Cycle Reserve Study as part of the next update, and will be funded from Section 37 Reserve Fund. It is anticipated that the gateway will have a life expectancy of 25 years.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS**

Not Applicable

### **ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

This project aligns to all of the goals set out in the Public Realm Strategy; Made in Markham Innovation + Design, Keep Markham Beautiful, Animate Our Neighbourhoods and Districts, Harmonize Our Efforts and Share Our Resources, and Create Gateways and Destinations.

### **BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:**

Operations, (Parks)  
Financial Services

### **RECOMMENDED BY:**

X

Morgan Jones  
Director, Operations

X

Brenda Librecz  
Commissioner, Community and Fire Services

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1 – Markham Anthony Roman Centre Pedestrian Gateway Feature

Attachment 2 – Markham Anthony Roman Centre Entry Plan

Attachment 3 – Key Map