



CORNELL ADVISORY GROUP MINUTES OF MEETING – June 12th, 2006

Attendees:	Company/Agency:
John Webster	Ward 5 Councillor
Jack Heath	Regional Councillor
Jim Jones	Regional Councillor
Renee Torrington	President, Cornell Ratepayers Association
Andrew Keyes	Cornell Ratepayers Association
Robert Baird	President, Sherwood-Amberglen Ratepayers Association
Keith Thirgood	The Old Markham Village Ratepayers Inc.
Al Bishop	Landowner Rep - Trustee, Developers Group
Niomie Massey	Landowner Rep – Cornell Rouge
Dan Leeming	Planning Consultant –The Planning Partnership
Christine Joe	Markham-Stouffville Hospital
Vijay Chauhan	York Region Transit Partnership (VIVA)
Sean Hertel	York Region Planning and Development Services
Daniel DelBianco	York District Catholic School Board
Jessica Peake	York Region District School Board
Kevin Huang	Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)
Carolyn Woodland	Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)
Grant Robinson	York Region
	Town of Markham Staff:
Valerie Shuttleworth	Director of Planning & Urban Design
Biju Karumanchery	Manager, East Team
Marg Wouters	Senior Planner, East District
Arup Mukherjee	Manager, Transportation
Kathryn Webber	Administrator – Extension: 2466

Chair: Councillor John Webster

1. Introductions & Welcome – John Webster

2. York Region Transportation Update – 9th Line widening – Grant Robinson

- Project will be tendered this summer
- Timing is affected by encroachment permits (MTO), storm sewer construction, and utility installations
- Construction will be implemented in phases with the option of breaking the project into two large components to allow for construction to move ahead and not be held up for permits
- First stage of construction will be to shift traffic lights and lanes
- The 9th Line profile will change - adjustments to grading/sloping will lower the road

- Construction timing was co-ordinated to allow for the completion of Bur Oak Ave to Hwy 7 before the commencement of 9th Line widening; however there may be some overlap due to delays
- Traffic signals at Delmark Blvd are currently being installed; which will assist traffic flow during construction

3. Town of Markham Overview (Transportation Study) – Arup Mukherjee

- The transportation study is being undertaken to:
 - Support the additional development proposed in the draft Secondary Plan
 - Identify transportation needs – Roads, Bike, Transit
 - Develop blue print to guide sustainable transportation
- Study Approach:
 - Trip Generation - look at the number of trips by car, bike & transit in peak am and pm periods
 - Distribution of trips
- Evaluate: determine pinch points
 - Roads – screen line analysis looks at projected cars, volume and capacity during peak hours. Capacity exceeds volume at all screenlines.
 - Bikes – facilities and pathways were not identified in the first phase of development in Cornell, however, they are being identified in future development phases. Reserved lanes, multi-use, and shared lanes will be designed into the community (approx. 20 km in total of bike trails)
 - Transit – station location needs to be determined to allow for bus turnaround
- Next Steps:
 - Intersection analysis
 - Report to Council supporting the Secondary Plan update

4. VIVA Update – Vijay Chauhan

- VIVA is the Region of York's response to growth with 30,000 new residents and 16,000 new jobs projected
- VIVA offers 6 new routes, 7 days a week, every 15 minutes and 5-7 minutes in peak areas.
- VIVA fares allow for a 2 hour transfer time for one fee as well as an integrated system
- Ridership has increased 30%
- Three phases of the plan include:
 - i. Phase I – 2003 to 2005 now complete
 - ii. Phase II – 2006 to 2012 includes dedicated lanes through corridors. These dedicated lanes will be built to accommodate a light rail system. Provincial and Federal funding is required first to seek construction approvals. The build out would include: permanent stations, landscaping and dedicated lanes implemented in sections while remaining operational at all times
 - iii. Phase III – 2012 to 2022 optimally delivers a light rail system in a dedicated corridor
- Cornell was targeted to have VIVA service in Phase I, however terminal issues and the ability to turn buses around delayed services. Completion of Bur Oak Ave to Hwy 7, may allow the introduction of service on a temporary loop. Consultation is underway to finalize routes.
- Permanent Transit Facilities will include service connections for YRT, VIVA, Durham and perhaps GO Transit. A location has not been finalized; however the parties continue to work

towards the optimum location. No construction timing as of yet, there are many hurdles such as Province (MTO) permits that are required and will take time to finalize.

Q&A / Discussion:

- Discussion focused on alternatives and the dedicated lane feasibility given pinch points along Hwy. 7.
- The community support VIVA to Cornell and would like to see it implemented as soon as possible. The group asked what they could do to further support any initiatives and were advised by the Chair that letters to their Provincial Members of Parliament may be helpful.
- It was noted by staff that MTO was invited to attend the Cornell Advisory Group meeting, but declined.
- Vijay Chauhan from VIVA committed to bring back to the group more detailed information about specific timing and routes within Cornell.
- Discussion re: GO Transit, TTC subway extension and VIVA linkages
- Councillor Heath requested staff to return with detailed maps outlining: proposed station locations and projected timelines (transit and roads)

5. Draft Secondary Plan - Updates and Changes – Marg Wouters

Proposed changes to the Land Use Plan include:

- 16th Avenue Retail Site - reconfiguration of the retail site to integrate the retail with the local street pattern (as opposed to the suburban retail plaza configuration currently implied in the draft Secondary Plan); considering mixed-use development centred at the intersection of 16th Avenue and the existing Markham By-Pass; provision for some stand-alone retail at east limit of the retail area, with access from new Markham By-Pass.
- Avenue 7 Business Park (north side only), west of new Markham By-Pass
- considering extending the Avenue 7 Corridor - Mixed Residential designation further east, on the north side only, (reducing the Avenue 7 Corridor - Business Park designation by about half west of the By-Pass); and redesignating the Business Park Area lands north of the Avenue 7 designation to Residential Neighbourhood - Cornell Centre; this would also entail reconfiguration of certain park designations in this area.
- Bur Oak Ave/White's Hill Ave place of worship site – considering permitting additional retail and residential uses on this site to allow it to develop as part of the Residential Neighbourhood Centre in this area, if it doesn't get developed entirely with a place of worship.
- Markham-Stouffville Hospital lands – discussions are ongoing with the Hospital as to whether their lands north of Church St should retain the residential designation (i.e., Residential Neighbourhood - Cornell Centre) or whether they should be included in the Institutional designation covering the remainder of the Hospital lands; the minimum fsi requirement for the Institutional lands south of Church St is proposed to be changed to a maximum fsi.
- 1 additional elementary school site to be identified
- additional place of worship sites to be identified; considering identifying 1 additional site and including policies to permit a 2nd additional site within the Avenue 7 Corridor - Mixed Residential designation

Additional proposed policy revisions include:

- consideration of need for further policies re: the interface with the Rouge North/Greenbelt area to the east of the Planning District; and also the inclusion of policies with respect to ecological linkages within the Plan
- clarification of policies regarding the phasing of development (i.e., the Plan does not contemplate tying development outside of Cornell Centre to development in Cornell Centre)
- clarification of required studies for development
- revised population and employment estimates
- other - discussions are on-going with developers regarding non-lane-based product, this may not be resolved before the Secondary Plan is approved; may result in separate amendment at later date

Q&A / Discussion followed.

6. Upcoming Meetings

- Renee Torrington and Andrew Keyes presented a list of concerns from the Cornell Ratepayers Association and copies were provided. These concerns will be addressed at subsequent meetings.
- The next meeting of the Advisory Group was confirmed for Monday July 17th.
- The statutory Public Meeting for the draft Cornell Secondary Plan is scheduled for Tuesday, June 20, 2006 at 7pm.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:00pm