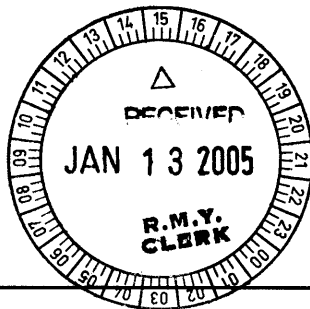
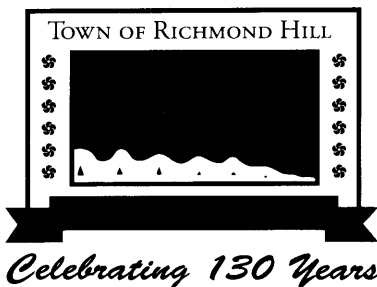




Town of Richmond Hill

P.O. Box 300
225 East Beaver Creek Road
Richmond Hill, Ontario
Canada L4C 4Y5
(905) 771-8800
www.richmondhill.ca

January 11, 2005

REGION OF YORK CLERK'S OFFICE

FILE No. - *p06*

→ . Chair
· CAO
· S. Cantwright
· K. Schipper

Denis Kelly, Regional Clerk
The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
P.O. Box 147
Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1

Dear Mr. Kelly:

Re: Response to York Region's Draft 2005 Capital Program (Roads) and Regional Road Priorities in Richmond Hill

I am writing to advise that Richmond Hill Town Council, at its meeting on January 10, 2005, approved the following resolution:

- a) That, in order to address growing frustration with traffic gridlock and in response to York Region's request for comments on its proposed 2005 Capital Program, the Region of York be requested to:
 - i) immediately initiate in 2005 the 16th Avenue widening environmental assessment study, Bayview Avenue to Woodbine Avenue (including the Highway 404 bridges), for start of construction earlier than the proposed 2009;
 - ii) initiate the environmental assessment study for the widening of Leslie Street for the section from south of Highway 407 to Major Mackenzie Drive in 2006 in view of advancing the Leslie Street widening to 2010 immediately following the widening of Leslie Street south of Highway 407 which is currently scheduled for 2009;
 - iii) request the Province of Ontario to expedite the construction of the southbound HOV lane on Highway 404 from north of Highway 7 to Highway 401, and that this HOV lane be extended northerly to Stouffville Road;
 - iv) start negotiation with the Highway 407 consortium for the additional W-NS and NS-E ramps at Leslie Street and Highway 407;
 - v) advance the widening of Bathurst Street, Highway 7 to Major Mackenzie Drive, from its current 2012 and 2013 schedule;

(continued)



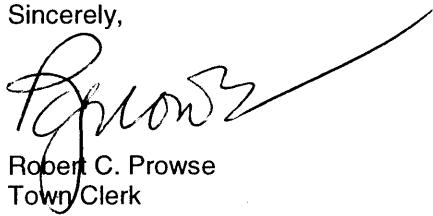
Proud Communities in Bloom Participant

Denis Kelly
January 11, 2005
Page ii

- vi) initiate an environmental assessment study for the widening of Major Mackenzie Drive, from Bayview Avenue to Woodbine Avenue, in 2005;
- b) That the Region of York be requested to respond to Council's July 26, 2004 resolution requesting that the eastbound right turn lane on Major Mackenzie Drive at Leslie Street be extended to accommodate morning peak hour queues;
- c) That the Town Clerk be directed to forward copies of Gridlock Task Force Report No. 2 to the neighbouring municipalities of the City of Vaughan and Town of Markham as many of the recommendations also address traffic concerns in those municipalities.

In accordance with Council's directive, I am forwarding to your attention a copy of Council's request, as above, with the referenced staff report enclosed. If you require further information please contact Bruce Macgregor, Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works at (905) 771-8800, extension 3514.

Sincerely,



Robert C. Prowse
Town Clerk

cc: B. Macgregor, Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works

TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL

Gridlock Task Force

December 13, 2004

Report No.: 2

Engineering & Public Works Department

Transportation, Environmental & Development Engineering

**SUBJECT: Response to York Region's Draft 2005 Capital Program (Roads)
and Regional Road Priorities in Richmond Hill**

PURPOSE:

To respond to the Region's draft 10 year road capital program for the period from 2005 to 2014 and the Region's 2005 road capital budget.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- a) It is recommended that, to address growing frustration with traffic gridlock and in response to York Region's request for comments on their proposed 2005 Capital Program, Council request that the Region:
 - i) immediately initiate in 2005 the 16th Avenue widening environmental assessment study, Bayview to Woodbine (including the Highway 404 bridges), for start of construction earlier than the proposed 2009;
 - ii) initiate the environmental assessment study for the widening of Leslie Street for the section from south of Highway 407 to Major Mackenzie Drive in 2006 in view of advancing the Leslie Street widening to 2010 immediately following the widening of Leslie south of Highway 407 which is currently scheduled for 2009;
 - iii) request the province of Ontario to expedite the construction of the southbound HOV lane on Highway 404 from north of Highway 7 to Highway 401, and, that this HOV lane be extended northerly to Stouffville Road;
 - iv) start negotiation with the Highway 407 consortium for the additional W-NS and NS-E ramps at Leslie Street and the 407;
 - v) advance the widening of Bathurst Street, Highway 7 to Major Mackenzie Drive, from its current 2012 and 2013 schedule;
 - vi) initiate an environmental assessment study for the widening of Major Mackenzie Drive, from Bayview Avenue to Woodbine, in 2005.

- b) That Council request a response from York Region to a July 26, 2004 Council resolution requesting that the eastbound right turn lane on Major Mackenzie Drive at Leslie Street be extended to accommodate a.m. peak hour queues.
- c) Copies of this report be sent to the neighbouring municipalities of Vaughan and Markham as many of the recommendations also address traffic concerns in those municipalities.

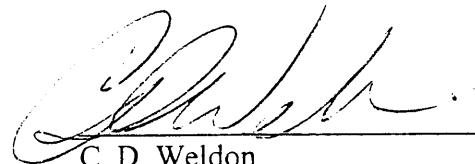
Contact: Marcel Lanteigne, Ext. 2456

Submitted by:



Bruce Macgregor, P.Eng.
Commissioner of Engineering &
Public Works

Approved by:



C. D. Weldon
Chief Administrative Officer

BACKGROUND:

Every year the Region of York Transportation and Works Department reviews its 10 year Capital Works program which, for 2005, covers the period from 2005 to 2014. During that review, the upcoming year's (in this case 2005) capital/budget is reviewed approved.

Based on the current draft 2005-2014 Capital Works program, the Region is estimating that the total gross expenditure over the upcoming 10 year period will be \$5,101 million while the 2005 Capital budget gross expenditure will be \$570.3 million. Breakdown by divisions is as follows:

2005 to 2014 Ten Year Capital Plan (Million Dollar)

Roads	\$1,133	(20%)
Rapid Transit	\$2,188	(43%)
YRT	\$ 236	(5%)
Solid Waste	\$ 23	(1%)
Wastewater	\$ 764	(15%)
Water	\$ 757	(15%)

2005 Transportation and Works Capital Budget (Millions)

Roads	\$ 148.2	(26%)
Rapid Transit	\$ 78.2	(14%)
YRT	\$ 22.4	(4%)
Solid Waste	\$ 2.2	(0%)
Wastewater	\$ 161.2	(28%)
Water	\$ 158.1	(28%)

The Roads component of the Region's budget is developed based on the following criteria:

- Provide a safe and effective arterial road network for personal travel and goods movement
- Maintain in good repair the arterial road network
- Master Plan (June 2002) policy and vision
- Program based on needs adjusted for construction constraints and coordination with other capital works such as sanitary sewer program.

Key initiatives over the next 10 years of the Region of York's Roads Capital Plan are:

- Major road widening throughout the Region
- New highway interchanges on 400 series highways
- Mid block collector road crossings of 400 series highways
- Arterial road extensions of Highway 427
- Design guidelines of 6/7 lane roadways (to incorporate more landscaping and urban design features)
- Continual emphasis on maintaining existing assets

Within the Town of Richmond Hill, the following road improvements are scheduled:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Project</u>
2005	Gamble Road (Bathurst to Yonge Street) 19th Avenue (Yonge to Leslie) Bathurst Street (King Road to north of Bloomington)
2006	Bayview Avenue (south of Highway 7 to 16th Avenue)
2007	Bayview Avenue (Elgin Mills to Stouffville) Bloomington Road (Yonge to Highway 404) Highway 404 collector road mid block crossing (Highway 7 to 16th Avenue)
2008	Leslie Street (Bethesda to Bloomington Road)
2009	16th Avenue (Bayview to Woodbine Avenue)
2010	Bloomington Road (Bathurst to Yonge)
2011	Gamble Road (Bathurst to Bayview) Red Cedar Avenue under Hwy 407 (High Tech Road to Langstaff Road in the Town of Markham) Bayview Avenue (Stouffville Road to south of Bloomington)
2012	Bathurst Street (Highway 7 to Rutherford) Major Mackenzie Drive East (Bayview to Woodbine Avenue)
2013	Bayview Avenue (16th Avenue to Major Mackenzie) Leslie Street (Elgin Mills to Stouffville Road)
2014	Bathurst Street (Rutherford/Carrville Road to Major Mackenzie) Leslie Street (Highway 7 to Major Mackenzie Drive)

Other road improvements of importance to traffic circulation in the Town are:

2009	Leslie Street (Steeles Avenue to Highway 407) Town of Markham
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2011	Bayview Avenue (Highway 7 to John Street) Town of Markham
2012	Leslie Street (Highway 7 to Highway 407) Town of Markham
2014	Bathurst Street (Highway 7 to Steeles Avenue) Town of Vaughan
2014	Teston Road (Bathurst Street to Dufferin Street) Town of Vaughan

Only one intersection improvement is scheduled within the Town and will be at :

- 16th Avenue and Mural/Vogell, scheduled for 2005

DISCUSSION:

Staff have reviewed the Region's 10 year capital road program and the 2005 capital budget and believe that the current work program does not provide the necessary capital investment within the Town to support ongoing development in the Beaver Creek business park and surrounding areas, including those in neighbouring Markham.

As an example, currently during the AM peak, southbound Leslie Street and 16th Avenue are regularly congested at the intersection of 16th Avenue and Leslie Street. Queues regularly extend 800m long. On some occasions, queues will extend well beyond 1 km in length.

Highway 404 southbound is a major contributor to the congestion on Leslie Street. Highway 404 does not have the necessary capacity southbound in the AM peak period to accommodate the demand. Stop and go conditions regularly start north of the Stouffville interchange and on many days, congestion will start at Bloomington Road. This stop and go condition extends to 16th Avenue, a distance of about 9 kilometers.

From the south and east, congestion is also a major issue as Leslie Street south of Highway 407 (through St. Roberts Secondary School) is always congested. The Highway 404 off ramps at Highway 7 and at 16th Avenue have queues that extend back onto the expressway. Highway 7 and 16th Avenue east of Highway 404 are also very congested.

The Highway 404 mid block collector crossing, between Highway 7 and 16th Avenue was identified by the Towns of Richmond Hill and Markham and communicated to York Region in 2002. The project is now funded by all three municipalities (Richmond Hill, Markham and York Region) and will provide needed road capacity to relieve Highway 7 and 16th Avenue. However strong growth and business park demands require more roadway capacity. As such, staff recommend that the following be initiated by the Region of York:

1. Immediately initiate in 2005 the 16th Avenue widening environmental assessment study, Bayview to Woodbine (including the Highway 404 bridges), for start of construction earlier than the proposed 2009.
2. Advance the Leslie Street widening, for the section from south of Highway 407 to Major Mackenzie Drive to 2010 following the widening of Leslie south of Highway 407 scheduled for 2009. Initiate the environmental assessment study in 2006.

3. Request the province of Ontario to expedite the construction of the southbound HOV lane on Highway 404 from north of Highway 7 to Highway 401, and, that this HOV lane be extended northerly to Stouffville Road.
4. Start negotiation with the Highway 407 consortium for the additional NS and NS-E ramps at Leslie Street and the 407 with a view to designing the project in 2006 for construction by 2007.

In addition to the above, both Councils for the City of Vaughan and the Town of Richmond Hill previously requested the Region of York to advance the widening of Bathurst Street (Highway 7 to Major Mackenzie Drive) from its current 2012 and 2013 schedule. Congestion during the AM and PM peak periods is currently excessive and requires immediate action. The Region should consider upgrading Bathurst Street as a priority to avoid the congestion on Yonge Street that will otherwise result from the construction activity of the planned rapid transit centre median. An expanded transportation corridor on Bathurst Street would also assist truck traffic around planned left turn restrictions to be introduced with the new Yonge Street centre median rapid transit system.

During the OPA 120 OMB hearing, a transportation study undertaken for the area bounded by Major Mackenzie drive to the south, Bayview to the west, Elgin Mills to the north and Highway to the east recommended that Major Mackenzie Drive be widened to 6 lanes from Bayview to Highway 404. In addition, it was recommended that Elgin Mills be widened to 4 lanes. The Region agreed at the board hearing that those road improvements were necessary to accommodate the traffic generated by that development and has collected development charges accordingly. This development area is now almost fully built-out. The Region however has only recently completed the widening of Elgin Mills Road to 4 lanes from Bayview to Highway 404; including an interchange at Highway 404. The widening of Major Mackenzie Drive still has to be initiated. Currently, the widening of this section of Major Mackenzie Drive is scheduled for 2012. Given the congestion problems being experienced by drivers on Major Mackenzie Drive East in the AM peak, the Region needs to complete the widening of this road as originally planned. The environmental assessment study for the widening of Major Mackenzie drive needs to be initiated in 2005 and the construction moved forward to 2009. In the meantime, the Region of York should undertake some operational improvements to the intersection of Major Mackenzie Drive and Leslie Street by extending existing eastbound right turn lane to Forestwood Street. This will ease the need for eastbound right turning traffic to shortcut through the Bayview Hill neighbourhood. A request made by Council on July 26, 2004 is awaiting a reply from York Region (see Exhibit 1).

There are other areas of congestion through Richmond Hill however, the list noted above needs to be addressed as soon as possible as the current construction schedules do not adequately address existing congestion problem areas. It's imperative that existing business parks be provided with quality transportation facilities so that businesses that have chosen to locate in York Region are not sufficiently discouraged by traffic congestion that they seek alternative locations.

FINANCIAL/STAFFING/OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Advancing some Regional road projects will also advance the need, in some locations, for streetlighting and sidewalks. These services are funded by the Town through development charges.

The Regional road improvements recommended in this report are vital to maintaining strong access to employment areas in Richmond Hill, Markham and Vaughan. Balanced assessment relies on the continuing ability to attract businesses. Encouraging job creation in our municipality eases the burden on other transportation corridors and should be strongly encouraged.

RELATIONSHIP TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN:

The recommendations of this report are consistent with the strategic plan goals of:

- improving our transportation system, and
- enhancing and expanding our economic opportunities.

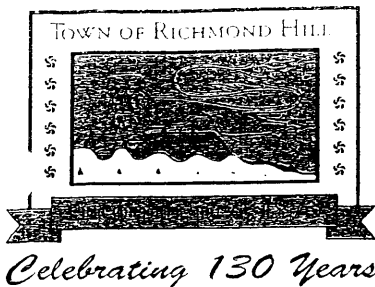
CONCLUSIONS:

Town staff have reviewed the Region's draft 2005-2014 Road Capital Program and the 2005 Capital budget and recommend that the Region of York be requested to advance the widening of Leslie Street, 16th Avenue, and Bathurst Street. Leslie Street and 16th Avenue have a direct influence on the economic growth of the Beaver Creek and surrounding business parks including the Commerce Valley area in neighbouring Markham. The widening of Bathurst Street has been supported by the Councils of both the Town of Richmond Hill and the City of Vaughan. This widening is required to address existing congestion and provide relief for Yonge Street traffic during construction of the YRTP centre median transitway.

The Town of Richmond Hill is centrally located within the Region of York. Because residential development patterns have generally followed a northward pattern up the Yonge Street corridor (between Bathurst and Leslie Street) southbound traffic congestion is most prevalent in the morning with the reverse occurring in the afternoon. The associated traffic volumes will continue to grow as development continues. East-west traffic across the Region is also on the increase and since the Town is in the centre of the Region, this traffic growth is negatively affecting roadway capacity. To address capacity shortcomings, the Region needs to bring forward several of the roadway initiatives listed in their draft 2005-2014 capital road program. This staff report recommends a list of improvements that need to be brought forward.

Attach. - Exhibit 1

ML/pm



Town of Richmond Hill

P.O. Box 300
225 East Beaver Creek Road
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Canada L4C 4Y5
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www.richmondhill.ca

July 29, 2004

Mr. Denis Kelly, Regional Clerk
The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
P.O. Box 147
Newmarket, Ontario
L3Y 6Z1

Dear Mr. Kelly:

Re: Major Mackenzie Drive East Traffic Issues - File No. T07-Y-GE - (SRE.04.049)

Richmond Hill Town Council, at its meeting on July 26, 2004, approved the following resolution:

- "a) That the Region of York be requested to immediately extend the eastbound right turn lane on Major Mackenzie Drive East from Leslie Street to Forestwood Street;
- b) That Chapter 1116, Schedule 'A' (Parking Prohibited-Signs-Displayed) of the Municipal Code be amended by adding the following:

<u>Highway</u>	<u>Side</u>	<u>From & To</u>	<u>Prohibited Times of Day</u>
Forestwood St.	West	Major Mackenzie Drive East to a point 90m northerly thereof	Anytime
Shirley Dr.	West	Major Mackenzie Drive East to Yoho Avenue	Anytime
Frank Endean Rd.	East	Major Mackenzie Drive East to a point 50 m south of Rushingbrook Drive	Anytime
Frank Endean Rd.	West	Major Mackenzie Drive East to Rushingbrook Drive	Anytime

Exhibit 1

Report No. 2 011

*Griplock Task Force
Committee*

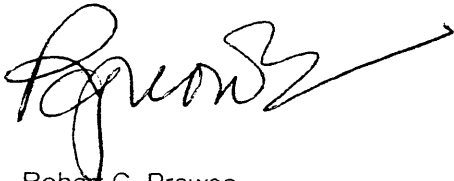


Mr. Denis Kelly
July 29, 2004
Page 2

I draw your attention specifically to clause (a) of the resolution which makes a request of the Region.

If you require any further information, please contact Robert Cowie directly at 771-8800, extension 3583.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Prowse", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Robert C. Prowse
Town Clerk

/lc