

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK

**REPORT NO. 1
OF THE REGIONAL GENERAL MANAGER, ROADS**

**For Consideration by
The Council of The Regional Municipality of York
on September 27, 2007**

**1
HIGHWAY 404 EXTENSION
FROM GREEN LANE TO WOODBINE AVENUE/RAVENSHOE ROAD**

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Regional Clerk forward a copy of this report to the Ministry of Transportation and the Clerks of the Towns of Newmarket, East Gwillimbury and Georgina.

2. PURPOSE

This report responds to the request made at the September 5, 2007 Transportation and Works Committee meeting, provides Regional Council with an update on the status of the Highway 404 extension from Green Lane to Woodbine Avenue/Ravenshoe Road and reaffirms the Region's position on timing of the proposed completion of the Highway 404 extension at Queensville Sideroad.

3. BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) carried out a provincial route planning and environmental assessment study for the extension of Highway 404 from Davis Drive to Highways 12/48 between 1992 and 1997. The *Highway 404 Extension - Davis Drive (York Regional Road 31) to Highway 12 - Route Planning Study and Environmental*

Assessment (Cole, Sherman and Associates, presently URS Canada Inc.) received approval on August 28, 2002, subject to a number of conditions.

One of the Ministry of the Environment's (MOE) conditions of approval required MTO to undertake subsequent design activities in accordance with the requirements of the Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for Provincial Transportation Facilities. In response, MTO has undertaken a number of Provincial Class EA's for the preliminary design of the 13.5 km section of Highway 404 from Green Lane to Woodbine Avenue/Ravenshoe Road.

"Transportation Environmental Study Report 3 – Highway 404 Extension from north of Mount Albert Road to Woodbine Avenue/Ravenshoe Road" (*Transportation Environmental Study Report 3*) representing the preliminary design of Highway 404 from north of Mount Albert Road to Woodbine Avenue/Ravenshoe Road, was placed on the public record for review commencing June 28, 2007, and ending August 13, 2007. Following the expiration of the review period, the project received clearance under the *EA Act* to proceed to the implementation (design and construction) phase.

Transportation Environmental Study Report 3 identified the preferred alternative for the Highway 404 Extension from north of Mount Albert Road to Woodbine Avenue/Ravenshoe Road, including a full interchange at Queensville Sideroad, and an interim partial interchange at Woodbine Avenue/Ravenshoe Road. It also included the arterial and collector road improvements, including those required to accommodate an interim terminus at Queensville Sideroad.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

4.1 Project Schedule

In March 2007, MTO announced that Highway 404 will be extended from Green Lane to Woodbine Avenue/Ravenshoe Road and this section will be opened to traffic by 2012.

To complete the construction of the Highway 404 extension on this aggressive schedule, MTO has initiated several separate contracts. These include:

- Advance structure contract for northbound Highway 404 over Green Lane. This project is currently under construction with completion in 2008.
- Advance structure contract and Mount Albert Road reconstruction. This project is currently in detailed design with construction anticipated for 2008.

With the recent completion of *Transportation Environmental Study Report 3* MTO will now proceed to implement the balance of the work. At this time, MTO is proceeding with the consultant acquisition phase for the detailed design of the remaining sections, with construction commencing in 2009.

4.2 Project Phasing

The planned extension of Highway 404 is being undertaken on an aggressive schedule. The Region's expectation is that MTO will complete the construction of the extension as one project and open the completed Highway 404 extension from Green Lane to Woodbine Avenue/Ravenshoe Road in a single phase by 2012.

During the preparation of the *Transportation Environmental Study Report 3*, a possible interim terminus at Queensville Sideroad for the purpose of construction staging, was discussed. The TESR as filed, now correctly documents Regional staff concerns that such an interim terminus, however short in duration, would require additional mitigation on the surrounding road network. Regional staff has always maintained that the Highway 404 extension from Green Lane to Woodbine Avenue/Ravenshoe Road must be constructed by 2012.

MTO has however, been very explicit, both in *Transportation Environmental Study Report 3* and subsequent correspondence that an interim terminus, specifically at Queensville Sideroad, is no longer anticipated. This was further supported by the announcement that the completed Highway 404 extension from Green Lane to Woodbine Avenue/Ravenshoe Road would be opened by 2012.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications resulting from the recommendation of this report.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

There are significant positive local, regional and provincial benefits resulting from the Highway 404 extension from Green Lane to Woodbine Avenue/Ravenshoe Road.

The highway extension will provide additional north-south transportation network capacity to provide a higher level of service to the road users and reduce congestion on the arterial road network.

It remains the Region's expectation that MTO will construct the Highway 404 extension in one phase and open the completed section from Green Lane to Woodbine Avenue/Ravenshoe Road by 2012.

7. CONCLUSION

The planned extension of Highway 404 from Green Lane to Woodbine Avenue/Ravenshoe Road will require significant support from the local and regional

municipalities if the 2012 completion date is to be achieved by MTO. To this end, The Regional Municipality of York along with the Towns of Newmarket, East Gwillimbury and Georgina should work cooperatively with MTO to allow a single phase opening of Highway 404 from Green Lane to Woodbine Avenue/Ravenshoe Road by 2012.

For more information on this report contact Dino Basso, Director, Capital Delivery, Roads Branch at extension 5902 in the Transportation and Works Department.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

Respectfully submitted,

**September 25, 2007
Newmarket, Ontario**

**P. Jankowski
General Manager**

(Report No. 1 of the General Manager, Roads was adopted, without amendment, by Regional Council at its meeting held on September 27, 2007.)