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HIGHWAY 404 EXTENSION UPDATE AND FUNDING CONTRIBUTION, GREEN LANE TO WOODBINE AVENUE / RAVENSHOE ROAD

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends that Council adopt the recommendations contained in the following report dated December 15, 2008, from the Commissioner of Transportation Services.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Council authorize the procurement of engineering services for the detailed design of the Doane Road (Y.R. 45) / Highway 404 interchange from the Ministry of Transportation (MTO), at a cost not to exceed \$445,000 (excluding GST).
2. The Regional Chair and Regional Clerk be authorized to sign the necessary agreement with the Ministry of Transportation for the inclusion of these design works in the Ministry of Transportation's detailed design of the mainline Highway 404 extension from Green Lane (Y.R. 19) to Ravenshoe Road (Y.R. 32), subject to terms satisfactory to the Commissioner of Transportation Services and the Regional Solicitor.
3. The Regional Chair and Regional Clerk be authorized to sign the necessary agreement with the Ministry of Transportation to allow the Ministry to construct the Region's programmed intersection improvements at Ravenshoe Road (Y.R. 32) / Woodbine Avenue (Y.R. 08) including a gateway feature for the Town of Georgina, at an estimated Regional cost of \$1,000,000 (excluding GST), subject to terms satisfactory to the Commissioner of Transportation Services and the Regional Solicitor.
4. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the Minister of Transportation, and the Clerks of the Towns of East Gwillimbury, Georgina, and Newmarket.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is:

1. to provide an update on the extension of Highway 404 from Green Lane to Woodbine Avenue / Ravenshoe Road, and
2. to request authority to have the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) include certain elements of the Region's programmed road works in the Ministry's work to gain efficiencies.

The Highway 404 Extension from Green Lane to Woodbine Avenue / Ravenshoe Road is depicted in Attachment 1.

3. BACKGROUND

This section provides an update on the status of ongoing work.

MTO continues to work towards implementing the Highway 404 extension by 2012, and is coordinating the following works with Regional staff:

- Green Lane overpass structure
- Mount Albert Road grade separation
- Doane Road interchange
- Queensville Sideroad interchange
- 404 termination at Woodbine Avenue / Ravenshoe Road
- Mainline 404, Green Lane to Woodbine Avenue / Ravenshoe Road

3.1 Construction of the northbound Green Lane overpass structure is nearing completion

In addition to the previously constructed southbound structure, MTO has substantially completed the construction of the Green Lane northbound structure by December 2008 under MTO Contract No. 2007-2265.

3.2 Construction of the Mount Albert Road grade separation is currently underway

MTO began construction of the Mount Albert Road grade separation on September 2, 2008. Local residents were informed that the official detour route is Woodbine Avenue, Green Lane, and Leslie Street. To accommodate local traffic, temporary traffic signals have been installed and are presently operational at the intersection of Farr Avenue and Woodbine Avenue.

Work has progressed more slowly than expected due to unanticipated field soils and groundwater conditions, resulting in the following revised schedule:

- Re-opening of Mount Albert Road is scheduled for June 2009.
- Completion of Highway 404 northbound and southbound structures at Mount Albert Road is scheduled for late summer 2009.
- Project completion scheduled for October 2009.

As directed by Council at its meeting of February 22, 2007, Regional staff are in the process of finalizing traffic management and the cost sharing/design provision agreement with MTO for the construction of retaining walls and roadway platform wide enough to accommodate four lanes and sidewalks for Mount Albert Road under the new Highway 404 bridges, and for traffic management in the vicinity of this project.

3.3 The Doane Road Interchange Environmental Study Report was filed for public review November 20, 2008

In response to forecasted growth in the area of Queensville, Sharon and Holland Landing, the long-term plans of York Region and the Town of East Gwillimbury (as identified in OPA 89 and 115) include an interchange with the Highway 404 Extension at Doane Road.

MTO is committed to providing a bridge crossing of Doane Road which does not preclude such an interchange, so long as the additional cost of a wider and longer bridge spanning future interchange ramps is paid for by the Region.

Accordingly, Council approved the initiation of the Doane Road Interchange Municipal Class EA study on October 18, 2007. MTO and Regional staff have worked together closely on this study, and following extensive public and agency consultation, a preferred interchange design has been identified, and subsequently endorsed by MTO. This interchange is documented in an Environmental Study Report, which was placed on the public record for review beginning November 20, 2008 with EA clearance anticipated (at the time of writing) by December 19, 2008. The preferred interchange configuration is depicted in Attachment 2.

Regional staff are working with MTO to finalize design provisions and cost sharing arrangements. MTO has agreed to negotiate on the Region's behalf where property is required by both MTO (for mainline Highway 404) and the Region (for the interchange) because the inclusion of the Doane Road interchange results in additional land requirements. This will simplify the land acquisition process by having affected landowners deal only with one government agency. The financial arrangements for property acquisition will be the subject of a future report.

Council's authority is needed to fund MTO's detailed design of the Region's portion of the interchange. This issue is discussed further in Section 4.1 of this report.

3.4 Detailed design of the Queensville interchange is currently underway

MTO is currently conducting the detailed design of the Queensville Sideroad interchange. Regional staff have no issues to report at this time.

3.5 Regional staff and MTO are coordinating works required at the Woodbine Avenue / Ravenshoe Road intersection

MTO's interim termination of Highway 404 is to occur south of the Woodbine Avenue / Ravenshoe Road intersection, and as part of the Highway 404 planning process, MTO has identified improvements required at this intersection.

Regional staff have also identified improvements required at this intersection through the Woodbine Avenue Environmental Assessment, 2002. In addition, the Town of Georgina has requested the Region construct a gateway feature at the north quadrants of the intersection. Regional staff are working with MTO and the Town to coordinate the construction of these works. Works proposed at this intersection are depicted in Attachment 3.

Council authority is required to request that MTO include certain elements of the Region's programmed intersection improvements as part of MTO's work, which is discussed further in Section 4.2 of this report.

3.6 Highway 404 roadway construction is expected to commence in 2010 and continue for two years

MTO and Regional staff continue to work closely to implement the opening of Highway 404 from Green Lane to Woodbine Avenue / Ravenshoe Road by MTO's target date of 2012. Detailed design is progressing between Green Lane and the Highway 404 interim termination at Woodbine Avenue / Ravenshoe Road.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

4.1 Authority is being sought to procure engineering services from MTO for the detailed design of the Doane Road interchange

The Highway 404 crossing at Doane Road is comprised of two parts: the bridge crossing for which MTO has received environmental clearance to construct, and the Region's interchange components as discussed in Section 3.3 of this report. The Region's components include those incremental works associated with providing a larger structure at Doane Road to accommodate speed change lanes, as well as the property and construction costs of the interchange ramps. These incremental construction costs are estimated at \$17.4 M (excluding the cost of property acquisition).

MTO is committed to opening Highway 404 to Ravenshoe Road by 2012 by providing a bridge crossing at Doane Road. The Region's 2008 and 2009 Roads Construction Programs identify construction of the remaining interchange elements commencing in 2015, however in order for MTO to finalize the design of the bridge crossing, the interchange in its entirety first needs to be designed. Once the entire interchange design is complete, the bridge, approaches, and other necessary grade separation works will be

constructed by MTO by 2012, with the remainder of the interchange elements constructed by the Region as currently programmed in 2015.

Accordingly the Region needs to procure detailed design services for its portion of the interchange elements. Options include the Region procuring its own consultant to design the interchange elements, or requesting MTO include the interchange elements in their overall design package.

MTO has retained Philips Engineering Ltd. through a competitive bid process to complete the detailed design of Highway 404 from Green Lane to Queensville Sideroad which includes the bridge crossing at Doane Road.

Regional staff recommend that the detailed design of the Doane Road interchange elements be included in MTO's work and be assigned to Philips Engineering Ltd. as this will result in cost savings through increased efficiencies and better coordination during the design process. Regional staff have negotiated these services with Philips Engineering Ltd. Within an upset limit of \$445,000 and have determined that their scope of services and fees are in-line with work of a similar size and nature. The result will be two complete but separate tender packages: one for works to be constructed by MTO by 2012, and one for tender in 2015 by the Region.

The breakdown of works to be included in these two tender packages is depicted in Attachment 2.

4.2 Authority is being sought to allow MTO to construct intersection improvements at the Ravenshoe Road / Woodbine Avenue intersection as part of MTO's Highway 404 assignment to be completed by 2012

Both Region and MTO have identified improvements required at the Woodbine Avenue / Ravenshoe Road intersection. Furthermore, the Town of Georgina has requested the Region construct a gateway feature at the north quadrants. MTO's work is scheduled for completion by 2012, however the Region's construction for the widening of Woodbine Avenue from Ravenshoe Road to Morton Avenue is to be tendered in early 2009.

MTO's intersection requirements are almost identical to York Region's, with the exception that MTO requires more land to accommodate additional turning lanes. Both Region and MTO staff have explored options to construct the improvements required by both parties with a minimum of rework and inconvenience to the public, however, incorporating MTO's work into the Region's contract would likely delay the Region's tender date of 2009 due to MTO property acquisition requirements.

Accordingly staff recommend that the Region's intersection improvements be constructed as part of MTO's Highway 404 work to be completed in 2012. The cost attributable to the Region and Town for intersection and gateway works is \$1,000,000, which is in accordance with work of a similar size and nature.

MTO's work limits are now planned to extend approximately 100 metres north of the Woodbine Avenue / Ravenshoe Road intersection to match the Region's southern work limits, as depicted in Attachment 3.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The 2009, 10-Year Roads Construction Program includes all costs pertaining to the proposed interchange at Highway 404/Doane Road, including property, design and construction. The detailed design component of these works is estimated to be \$445,000. The cost attributable to the Region for work at the Woodbine Avenue/Ravenshoe Road intersection, including the gateway feature, is \$1,000,000, with the gateway feature cost split 50/50 between the Region and the Town of Georgina. Funding for the gateway feature has been approved as part of the Municipal Streetscaping Partnering Program. Adequate funding for both Doane Road interchange detailed design, and Woodbine Avenue / Ravenshoe Road intersection construction projects have been included in the 2009 10-Year Roads Construction Program.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe* (Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal, 2006) indicates that significant growth in population and employment is projected for East Gwillimbury by 2031. The provision of an interchange at Highway 404 / Doane Road will address increased congestion on the local road network, and provide a benefit from a network flexibility perspective through an alternate route for emergency service vehicles and local travellers in the event of a traffic incident on Highway 404.

Construction of the Highway 404 extension to Woodbine Avenue / Ravenshoe Road will provide substantial community and economic benefits to the Towns of East Gwillimbury and Georgina. The extension has long been a critical transportation infrastructure component of planning undertaken by both of these municipalities.

7. CONCLUSION

MTO and Regional staff continue to work closely to meet MTO's commitment to extend Highway 404 to Woodbine Avenue / Ravenshoe Road by 2012.

Regional staff continues to coordinate all outstanding issues with MTO, including the grade separation at Mount Albert Road, the provision for interchange infrastructure at Doane Road, the interchange at Queensville Sideroad, and the interim terminus at Woodbine Avenue / Ravenshoe Road

Authorization for appropriate agreements is being sought to allow for MTO to undertake the Region's detailed design of the Highway 404 / Doane Road interchange, and the Region's construction of the Regional / local component of the Woodbine Avenue / Ravenshoe Road intersection.

Cost-sharing agreements for construction of the Doane Road interchange will be the subject of a future report to Council as the detailed design nears completion.

For more information on this report, please contact Paul Jankowski, General Manager, Roads Branch at Ext. 5901.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The three attachments referred to in this clause are attached to this report.)