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#### **MUNICIPAL STREETSCAPE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM 2009 PROJECT RECOMMENDATION**

**The Transportation Services Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report dated January 21, 2010, from the Commissioner of Transportation Services.**

#### **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that:

1. Regional Council approve \$345,488 towards the Town of Richmond Hill's streetscape proposal application on Gamble Road (Y.R. 29) between Bathurst Street (Y.R. 38) and Yonge Street (Y.R. 1) and 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Y.R. 29) between Yonge Street (Y.R. 1) and Linda Margaret Crescent.
2. The funds for this project be allocated from the approved Transportation Services Capital Budget.
3. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the Clerk of the Town of Richmond Hill for information.

#### **2. PURPOSE**

This report seeks approval for partnership funding on a municipal streetscaping proposal in conformance with the Region's approved Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program (MSPP) policy.

#### **3. BACKGROUND**

**Regional Council adopted the Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program policy in 2006 and allocated up to \$1-million annually from the Transportation Services Capital Budget to fund the Region's contribution**

In October 2006, Regional Council approved a policy for a Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program. The policy set out criteria for potential Regional funding contributions to streetscaping projects planned on Regional roads by local municipalities.

As part of the policy, Regional Council endorsed the allocation up to \$1-million of the Region's annual \$3-million streetscaping capital commitment to this program. The approved policy requires local municipalities to confirm their commitment to fund a

proposed project prior to planned construction. Once this commitment is received, the Region evaluates the potential for a recommendation to Regional Council.

In conformance with the approved Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program, Regional staff established a Streetscape Review Team in March 2007, to review all the municipal applications. The Streetscape Review Team is comprised of the following York Region staff:

- Streetscape Program Manager
- Manager, Natural Heritage and Forestry Services
- Manager, Roads Maintenance
- Transit Facilities Supervisor
- Senior Planner

Since the inception of the partnership funding program, the City of Vaughan, Towns of Georgina, East Gwillimbury and Whitchurch-Stouffville have received funding.

#### **4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS**

##### **In Fall 2009, the Town of Richmond Hill expressed interest in participating in the Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program for enhancements on Gamble Road and 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

In the late fall of 2009, Town of Richmond Hill expressed interest in the Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program for funding streetscape enhancements on Gamble Road and 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue. In November 2009, Richmond Hill Council approved funds to cost share 50% of the value of streetscape enhancements in partnership with York Region under the Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program (*see Attachment 1*).

Gamble Road and 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue are projects which have been combined and scheduled for construction to start in 2010. As part of the work, Gamble Road will be widened to five lanes from Bathurst Street to Yonge Street. Nineteenth Avenue will be widened to four lanes from Yonge Street to Linda Margaret Crescent.

##### **The Town of Richmond Hill expedited the streetscape design in order to have the submission complete prior to the Region tendering the contract for construction**

To capitalize on the maximum level of funding from York Region, the Town of Richmond Hill expedited the streetscape design to align with the road construction tender scheduled for February 2010. The Streetscape Review Team has reviewed the application and has compiled the following summary and recommendation.

### **Streetscape enhancements on Gamble Road and 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue create an attractive and pedestrian-friendly street for the local community**

The Town of Richmond Hill's application consists of a well-defined streetscape hierarchy of enhancements that characterize major nodes and minor nodes along Gamble Road and 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

The Town's proposed streetscape design from Bathurst Street to Linda Margaret Crescent consists of a design palette of:

- Ledge rock features complemented by planting at major nodes
- Decorative paving on boulevards at minor nodes
- Decorative street light standards
- Enhanced crosswalks
- Coloured medians.

The distinctive streetscape enhancements at both major arterial and minor collector road junctions with textured paving and landscaping support a clearly defined street hierarchy along Gamble Road. To support the effort, landscaping is also proposed behind transit stops creating shelter from the wind for transit patrons and completes the greening of the street (*see Attachment 2*).

### **The proposed streetscaping will complement the Region's street tree planting program and will enhance the experience of corridor users**

A streetscape design that is a seamless complement to the Region's boulevard street tree planting creates a coordinated and distinctive street. The streetscape design for Gamble Road will be a major transformation for the street and local community. Streetscape design addresses the scale of the right-of-way by visually reducing the length and width of this linear road and creating an attractive green street that supports a pedestrian environment for the community, recreational users and transit commuters.

Streetscape treatment at the Yonge Street intersection has been kept minimal to allow for future improvements along the Yonge Street corridor as part of the vivaNext initiative.

### **The Streetscape Review Team recommends streetscape partnership funding for the Town of Richmond Hill's application**

York Region strives to co-ordinate its road construction projects with their local partners to maximize the use of the partnership program. The program stipulates that funding on streetscape enhancements be on our Regional right-of-way. The Regional Streetscape Policy classifies Gamble Road and 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue with a regional road streetscape condition between Bathurst Street to Bayview Avenue.

In reviewing the application, the Streetscape Review Team recognizes the significant and positive contribution the Town's proposal will make to Gamble Road and 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

The Streetscape Review Team has reviewed the drawings and circulated comments back to Town of Richmond Hill for minor adjustments to be reflected in the final construction drawings and recommends that this application be endorsed by Regional Council for construction in 2010 with the Gamble Road and 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue construction project. The implementation of the proposal will be undertaken by York Region and maintained by Town of Richmond Hill.

## 5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total cost estimate submitted by Town of Richmond Hill for streetscape enhancements is \$967,885 (Gamble - \$415,365 and 19<sup>th</sup> - \$552,520). Based on the Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program eligibility criteria, Richmond Hill would receive 50% funding. The Gamble Road portion of their application also benefits from the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund Program, thereby further reducing the cost of the project. A breakdown of the funding is identified in Table 1.

**Table 1**  
Streetscaping Enhancements – Funding Breakdown

| <b>Funding</b>                                | <b>Gamble Road</b> | <b>19<sup>th</sup> Avenue</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Total Cost of Streetscape Enhancements        | \$415,365          | \$552,520                     |
| ISF Contribution (2/3 of Gamble portion only) | -276,910           | N/A                           |
| Net Cost of Streetscape Enhancements          | \$138,455          | \$552,520                     |
| Region Contribution from MSPP (50%)           | <b>\$69,228</b>    | <b>\$276,260</b>              |
| <b>Total MSPP Contribution</b>                | <b>\$345,488</b>   |                               |

There are sufficient funds in the Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program budget to cost-share with the Town of Richmond Hill on this project. There are still funds available in the Program to allow for future cost-sharing opportunities with other municipalities. At this time, no new funds are being requested.

## 6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

In 2009, the second year of the Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program, York Region staff continued to initiate and liaise with local municipalities on opportunities for funding and provide direction on scheduling and submission requirements.

The implementation of the partnership program will benefit the Town of Richmond Hill by providing an attractive and pedestrian-friendly street. A pedestrian-friendly street encourages social interaction, light recreational and transit use creating a vibrant

neighbourhood. Collaboration with local municipalities encourages locally initiated streetscaping projects benefitting both the local municipality and the Region. This is important in contributing to our overall civic image and fosters a sense of pride within York Region.

## **7. CONCLUSION**

The Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program is an annual capital funding program for the purpose of partnership funding with local municipalities on streetscape enhancements within the Regional right-of-ways.

The Town of Richmond Hill submitted an application for partnership funding amounting to \$345,488. The Streetscape Review Team has reviewed the application according to the policy's criteria and finds it satisfactory in the enhancement and beautification of our Regional right-of-ways and recommends the partnering with the Town of Richmond Hill for this project.

For more information on this report, please contact Carmen Hui, Program Manager, Streetscape at 905.830.4444, Extension 5272.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

*(The two attachments referred to in this clause were included in the agenda for the February 3, 2010 Committee meeting.)*



## TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
**NOVEMBER 16, 2009**  
**SREPW.09.105**

**ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
**DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND WATER RESOURCES DIVISION**

**SUBJECT: MUNICIPAL STREETSCAPE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**  
**19<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE AND GAMBLE ROAD**  
**(SREPW.09.105)**

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**PURPOSE:**

To obtain direction from council to make an application to the Region of York for funding under the Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program (MCP) for streetscape enhancements and decorative lighting as part of the Region's 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Gamble Road reconstruction project.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

- a) That council direct staff to complete an application to the Region of York for funding under the Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program for streetscape enhancements and decorative lighting as part of the 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Gamble Road reconstruction project;
- b) That the funding for the Town's portion of the design and construction of streetscape enhancements and decorative lighting be funded from the existing capital account #9022009613034130; and,
- c) That pursuant to Section 285.4.7 of the Town's Municipal Code, the requirement to solicit competitive bids be waived for Civil Engineering and Landscape Architectural consulting services.

Contact: Stephen Fick, Director of Design, Construction and Water Resources, Ext. 3501.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

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Italo Brutto, P. Eng.  
Commissioner of Engineering & Public Works

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M. Joan Anderton  
Chief Administrative Officer

## **BACKGROUND:**

19<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Yonge Street to Linda Margaret Crescent, and Gamble Road from Bathurst to Rothbury Road, are planned by the Region of York to be widened and reconstructed to an urban four (4) lane road cross section with the inclusion of on street bike lanes commencing 2010. In addition, existing pavement markings will be modified on Gamble Road from Rothbury Road to Yonge Street, to accommodate the on street bike lanes along this section of road. Included in the Town's 2009 Capital budget is funding to include sidewalks on both sides of these roads as well as street lighting where they currently do not exist.

At the Official Plan Task Force meeting of October 1, 2009, a general discussion took place with regards to the potential improvements to 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue and potential enhancements such as medians, entrance ways lighting and landscaping. Staff were requested to investigate whether there is a program in place to implement these enhancements as part of the Region's road construction project.

Recently, staff discussed with the Region of York opportunities to include streetscape enhancements and decorative lighting as part of the Region's work on 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Gamble Road and explore a funding partnership with the Region for this work. Staff can advise that the Region has established a program whereby a municipality can apply for funding for streetscape enhancements through their Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program (MSPP). Both 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Gamble Road appear to be good candidates for this program.

### Region of York Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program

In 2007, the Region of York announced the approval of the Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program (MSPP) which provides a framework (guidelines) in which member municipalities may apply for funding from the Region for streetscape enhancements on Regional Roads. The funding available for qualifying projects is 50% of the enhancement cost on current planned Region Capital projects and 33% for unplanned projects.

The guidelines require that the Municipality initiate and complete the design and tender of the proposed streetscape enhancements, submit an application for funding through the MSPP and provide a Council resolution from the municipality authorizing the above.

The Region's design of the subject roads is approximately 60% complete at this time. Given the short window of opportunity between the timing of this report and the Region's planned tendering date of January 2010, there is very little time available for the Town to implement a design and tender package to be included as part of the Region's road tender. In an attempt to achieve the tendering deadline, staff proposes to sole source this work utilizing the Region's existing Civil Consultant assigned to this project and a Landscape Architectural consultant which the Region's Civil Consultant has worked within the past. Similar to all Regional projects, Administration of the project would be performed by the Region who would in turn invoice the Town as the work is performed. In order to move forward to expedite this process, Council must waive the Town's Municipal Code (Section 285.4.7), for the requirement to solicit competitive bids for Civil Engineering and Landscape Architectural consulting services.

General Direction of Streetscape alternatives available.

Discussions with the Region to date have determined that landscaped medians within the traveled road are not practical given the road design and limited space available. However, there appear to be a number of other alternative potential streetscape enhancements available such as:

- ☐ Coloured/textural crosswalk enhancements similar to that recently installed in the Town's downtown core;
- ☐ Defined planting beds within the day lighting triangles of intersections, particularly at major nodes such as at Yonge Street;
- ☐ Low planter gardens within the boulevard providing year round interest and creating buffers between the sidewalk and roadway to enhance the pedestrian experience;
- ☐ Coloured/textural material for splash strips along the road edge and within traffic medians versus the traditional asphalt; and,
- ☐ Decorative lighting similar to Elgin Mills Road between Bayview Avenue and Leslie Street on 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

**FINANCIAL/STAFFING/OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

Currently, the Town has a Capital account #9022009613034130 in the amount of \$2,088,200.00, which is for the construction of sidewalks and street lighting for this project. Staff believes that the current budget within the specified accounts is sufficiently adequate to design and construct streetscape enhancements and decorative lighting on both 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Gamble Road; particularly, should the Region contribute 50% towards the enhancements. Therefore, no additional funding is proposed at this time.

**RELATIONSHIP TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN:**

The Strategic Plan Goal of "Wise Management of Resources" is realized through the partnering with the Region of York on an improved Streetscape Plan and the sharing of the financial costs to implement same. In addition, improving the vehicular and pedestrian experience of traveling through Richmond Hill by providing visible landscaping and lighting enhancements, builds on the Strategic Plan goal of creating a more "Vibrant Richmond Hill" by "Improving the look of Streets and Neighbourhoods".

**CONCLUSION:**

An opportunity exists through the Region of York's Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program to obtain funding to enhance the streetscape and street lighting on portions of 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Gamble Road. Richmond Hill through an application to this program should avail itself of this opportunity.



CONCEPT 2 - LEDGE ROCK/STONE LINK  
AERIAL VIEW OF 19TH AVE AT LINDA MARGARET CR  
AND JEFFERSON FOREST DR



CONCEPT 2 - LEDGE ROCK/STONE LINK  
LOOKING EAST ON 19TH AVE AT LINDA MARGARET CR



CONCEPT 2 - LEDGE ROCK/STONE LINK  
GAMBLE RD AT BATHURST ST INTERSECTION



CONCEPT 2 - LEDGE ROCK/STONE LINK  
LOOKING NORTH FROM LINDA MARGARET CR



LOOKING EAST AT ROTHBURY RD



GAMBLE ROAD AT SELWYN ROAD INTERSECTION

19TH AVE AT DEVONSLEIGH BLVD INTERSECTION

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AS

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STATION  
LIMIT OF  
STATION