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COST SHARING FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS 16TH AVENUE AND MARKHAM ROAD/HIGHWAY 48 INTERSECTION

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, February 18, 2004, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The Region agree, in principle, to fund the portion of the road improvements at the 16th Avenue and Markham Road/Highway 48 intersection within Regional jurisdiction, as described in this report.
2. Copies of this report be sent by the Regional Clerk to the Town of Markham and Ministry of Transportation.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to respond to a request by the Town of Markham that York Region cost share road improvements at the 16th Avenue and Markham Road/Highway 48 intersection as recommended by the Main Street Markham Streetscape and Traffic Management Study.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 General

At its meeting on October 24, 2003, Markham Council endorsed recommendations from Clause 3 of Report No. 63 that included a request that York Region and the Ministry of Transportation agree to cost share, with the Town, road improvements at the 16th Avenue and Markham Road/Highway 48 intersection (see *Attachment I*).

3.2 Roadway Jurisdiction

The road improvements proposed at the subject intersection include work within the jurisdiction of York Region, Town of Markham and the Ministry of Transportation. The Regional jurisdiction includes the 16th Avenue right-of-way both east and west of the subject intersection. In addition, the Region has jurisdiction over the traffic signals and related appurtenances.

The Town of Markham has jurisdiction over the Markham Road right-of-way south of the intersection as well as the intersection right-of-way itself. As noted above, the traffic signals are under Regional control and were the subject of a 1994 transfer of jurisdiction for the segment of 16th Avenue from Woodbine Avenue to Ninth Line from the Town to

the Region.

The Ministry of Transportation has jurisdiction over Highway 48 north of the intersection with 16th Avenue.

3.3 Main Street Markham Study

In 2002, the Town of Markham undertook a functional planning study to improve the streetscape and traffic management on the section of Markham Road between Highway 7 and 16th Avenue which is under the Town's jurisdiction. Recommendations of the study include enhanced streetscape treatments along Markham Road that provide extensive landscape planting and a more friendly pedestrian, bicycle and transit environment.

During the functional planning study, Regional Transportation and Works staff were consulted and provided input mainly related to potential cost sharing and design issues at the intersections of 16th Avenue/Markham Road and at Highway 7/Markham Road.

4. ANALYSIS

The Town proposes to implement the overall Main Street Markham Streetscape and Traffic Management Plan in six phases over the next several years. The first phase of implementation is the subject of this report and includes road and streetscape improvements at the 16th Avenue and Markham Road/Highway 48 intersection.

Implementation of the Phase 1 work at the subject intersection does not require an EA and can proceed to the detailed design phase. There are no land requirements associated with the subject intersection improvements.

The proposed work within Regional jurisdiction includes:

- Widening on 16th Avenue for a new right-turn lane.
- Addition of standard centre medians on 16th Avenue.
- Relocation of existing signals.

Additional work proposed but not under Regional jurisdiction includes:

- Decorative intersection treatment.
- 4.0m landscaped centre medians on Markham Road and Highway 48.
- Road widening on Markham Road/Highway 48 for dedicated turning lanes.

The total cost of all Phase 1 work, including detailed design and construction, has been estimated by the Town to be \$530,000.00. Markham is scheduled to complete the detailed design of the Phase 1 work by mid 2004 with construction by the end of 2004.

Implementation of the Main Street Markham Streetscape and Traffic Management Plan at the Highway 7 and Markham Road intersection is proposed as Phase 5 work. The construction schedule and estimated cost of work at this intersection has not been determined at this time.

Phases 2, 3 and 4 include works along the section of Main Street (Markham Road) between Highway 7 and 16th Avenue, entirely within the jurisdiction of the Town of Markham.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Staff have estimated the cost of the proposed work within Regional jurisdiction to be \$165,000. The Town of Markham has requested a cost share contribution from the Region of \$213,000 (includes GST). Most of the difference between the estimates is related to unit cost assumption. Some of the difference is also related to the complex jurisdictional issues at the intersection.

Staff propose that once the detailed design for the work is complete and prior to contract tendering, a final agreement be reached on the cost share formula based on the contract items and material quantities that are within Regional jurisdiction. The Region's cost contribution will then be based on actual tender unit costs applied to the approved cost sharing formula.

This project is not included in the 2004 Capital Program. Prior to tendering of the work by the Town of Markham, the Commissioner of Transportation and Works will identify sufficient funds available through other savings in the 2004 Road Budget to cover the Region's cost contribution.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

This report responds to a request by the Town of Markham for a Regional cost contribution towards road improvements at the 16th Avenue and Markham Road/Highway 48 intersection. These road improvements are the first phase of implementing the recommendations developed through the Town's Main Street Markham Streetscape and Traffic Management Study.

The Town's section of Main Street from 16th Avenue to Highway 7 will benefit from the implementation of the study recommendations with extensive streetscape enhancement and a more friendly pedestrian, bicycle and transit environment.

7. CONCLUSION

The Town of Markham is in the process of implementing recommendations from the Main Street Markham Streetscape and Traffic Management Plan. Work at the 16th Avenue and Markham Road/Highway 48 intersection is the first phase of the planned implementation.

The proposed work crosses jurisdictional boundaries and includes areas under York Region, Town of Markham and Ministry of Transportation jurisdiction.

The Town of Markham has requested that the Region and Province cost share the road improvements.

The cost share formula has not been finalized as yet. At this time, staff recommend the Region agree in principle to cover the cost of all work within Regional jurisdiction.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(A copy of the attachment referred to in the foregoing is included with this report and is also on file in the Office of the Regional Clerk.)