

6

MUNICIPAL STREETScape PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM 2010 PROJECT RECOMMENDATION

The Transportation Services Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report dated April 22, 2010, from the Commissioner of Transportation Services.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Regional Council approve \$310,413 towards the City of Vaughan's streetscape proposal application on Keele Street (Y.R. 6) between Masters Avenue to McNaughton Road.
2. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the Clerk of the City of Vaughan 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 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 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 program, the City of Vaughan, Towns of Richmond Hill, Georgina, East Gwillimbury and Whitchurch-Stouffville have applied and received funding.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

In Spring 2010, the City of Vaughan expressed interest in participating in the Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program for enhancements on Keele Street at McNaughton Road

York Region is planning intersection improvements on Keele Street from Masters Avenue to McNaughton Road. In late summer of 2010, Keele Street will be widened to include an extended median and dedicated left-turn lane in both directions approaching McNaughton Road. In addition, lay-by parking is dedicated on the east side of Keele Street to support the mixed-use/commercial development at street level creating an urban street.

In March 2010, City of Vaughan expressed interest in the Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program for funding streetscape enhancements within the Region's project scope. In 2008, Vaughan Council had approved funds for construction of streetscape enhancements within the Village of Maple heritage district including the area around Keele and McNaughton. The City confirmed that municipal funds are still available for this purpose.

The City of Vaughan expedited the streetscape design for Keele Street in order to have the submission complete prior to the Region tendering the contract for construction and qualify for partnership funding

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

Streetscape enhancements on Keele Street create an attractive and pedestrian-friendly street

The City of Vaughan's application consists of a well-defined streetscape hierarchy of enhancements that characterize the intersection of Keele and McNaughton as a gateway into the Village of Maple. The City's proposed streetscape design is consistent with the standard details established in the Village of Maple Streetscape Master Plan and consists of:

- Signature circular planters and paving at the gateway intersection of Keele Street and McNaughton Road
- Irrigated, raised median planter on Keele Street south of McNaughton Road
- Planting to complement streetscape/planters
- Decorative paving flanking concrete sidewalk
- Decorative paving on all medians on Keele Street and McNaughton Road
- Decorative street luminaires at gateway intersection
- Enhanced crosswalks on Keele Street at McNaughton Road and at Masters Avenue

The proposed streetscape enhancements will complement the Region's street tree planting program and improve the experience of corridor users

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

The distinctive streetscape will enhance the urban context defined by a residential/mixed-use development on the east side of Keele Street at McNaughton Road and contribute to a defined entrance into the historic Village of Maple. (*see Attachment 1*).

The Streetscape Review Team recommends streetscape partnership funding for the City of Vaughan's application

Under the Regional Streetscape Policy, Keele Street between Masters Drive to McNaughton is classified as a regional road streetscape condition which warrants the planting of street tree planting on both sides of the road. York Region strives to co-ordinate its road construction projects with their local partners to maximize the use of the Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program.

In reviewing the application, the Streetscape Review Team recognizes the significant and positive contribution of the City's proposal. The Streetscape Review Team has reviewed the City's plans and recommends that this application be endorsed by Regional Council for construction in 2010 with the Keele Street/McNaughton Road intersection improvements construction project. The implementation of the proposal will be undertaken by York Region and maintained by City of Vaughan.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total cost estimate submitted by City of Vaughan for streetscape enhancements is \$620,825. Based on the Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program eligibility criteria, Vaughan would receive 50% funding which amounts to \$310,413 from York Region.

The funds will be drawn from the Transportation Services Capital Budget's streetscape account, part of which is dedicated to the Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program which is 100% tax levy. To date, there is approximately \$1.3M remaining in this account, hence, there are sufficient funds in the Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program budget to cost-share with the City of Vaughan 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 2010, the third year of the Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program, York Region staff continue 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 City of Vaughan by providing an attractive and pedestrian-friendly street in this historic village. A pedestrian-friendly street encourages social interaction, supports local businesses and transit use thereby creating a more 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 rights-of-way.

The City of Vaughan submitted an application for partnership funding amounting to \$310,413. 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 rights-of-way and recommends the partnering with the City of Vaughan 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 attachment referred to in this clause was included in the agenda for the May 5, 2010 Committee meeting.)

