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INTERSECTION COST SHARING MCCOWAN ROAD AT BULLOCK DRIVE TOWN OF MARKHAM

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, April 26, 2006, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Staff be authorized to enter into an agreement with the Town of Markham and GO Transit for cost-sharing the intersection improvements associated with McCowan Road (Y.R. 67) at Bullock Drive, not to exceed \$150,000.
2. The Commissioner of Transportation and Works be authorized to sign the necessary agreement, subject to review by Legal Services.
3. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the Clerk of the Town of Markham and GO Transit.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Regional Council approval to enter into an agreement with the Town of Markham and GO Transit for cost-sharing intersection improvements of McCowan Road and Bullock Drive as shown on *Attachments 1 and 2*.

3. BACKGROUND

The Town of Markham is in the process of expanding the facilities and amenities at Centennial Community Centre. In response to the circulation of the site plan drawings, GO Transit expressed interest in increasing their parking spaces to maintain and attract new ridership. As a result, the Town and GO Transit explored various options and determined a parking structure would accommodate their needs.

The increased parking requirements at the Centennial Community Centre would create additional pressures for traffic exiting onto Bullock Drive and travelling eastbound to McCowan Road. Therefore, in order to accommodate the additional traffic, studies have shown an eastbound double left-turn is required.

Subsequently, at the Town of Markham Council meeting of September 27, 2005, the Town requested that the Region enter into a three-party cost-sharing agreement with the Town of Markham and GO Transit for each jurisdiction to cost share the intersection improvements associated with the intersection of McCowan Road at Bullock Drive.

4. ANALYSIS

The Town of Markham and GO Transit retained a consultant to review the feasibility of a parking structure to expand the parking area at the GO Transit station and Centennial Community Centre and the associated traffic/parking impacts. From the study, it was determined that in order to manage the increased volume of traffic exiting from the proposed expanded commuter parking area, an eastbound dual left-turn lane is required on Bullock Drive at the intersection of McCowan Road.

A preliminary design has been completed which shows the impact of the left-turn lane on the surrounding area. It also shows that there is minimal impact on McCowan Road. However, there is an overall benefit to transportation as more people will be using public transit, thereby, reducing the number of vehicles on the road. In addition, with the introduction of a double left-turn lane, more vehicles will be able to clear the intersection over a shorter time period allowing staff to improve traffic control signal operations. Therefore, it is felt that the Region will benefit from the improvement and should be a contributing partner to this agreement. The total estimated cost of the improvements is \$450,000. Although the works on McCowan Road are minimal, this project promotes the use of transit which is consistent with the objective in the Regional Official Plan "To provide transit service that is convenient, accessible and equitable to all residents of York". Therefore, it is recommended that the Region contribute a one-third share to this project to a maximum of \$150,000.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Sufficient funds for this intersection improvement are included within the 2006 Capital budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

This report supports the Town of Markham's request for a cost-sharing arrangement associated with the intersection improvements required at McCowan Road and Bullock Drive.

7. CONCLUSION

The proposed intersection improvement facilitates the Town of Markham and GO Transit requirements for a parking structure at the Centennial Community Centre located in the north-west quadrant of McCowan Road at Bullock Drive. As a result, the Region agrees, in principal, to enter into a three-party cost-sharing agreement with the Town of Markham and GO Transit. It is, therefore, recommended that approval be granted to enter into an agreement with the Town of Markham and GO Transit to cost-share in this project to a maximum of \$150,000.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

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