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STATUS UPDATE
MUNICIPAL STREETSCAPE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
2008 PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, September 18, 2007, from the General Manager, Roads:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Committee and Regional Council approve \$253,055 towards the Town of Georgina's streetscape proposal application at Woodbine Avenue (Y.R. 8) and Ravenshoe Road (Y.R. 32).
2. Committee and Regional Council approve \$107,250 towards the Town of East Gwillimbury's streetscape proposal application at Leslie Street (Y.R. 12) and Mount Albert Road (Y.R. 13).
3. The funds for these projects be precommitted from the 2008 Capital Budget.
4. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the Clerks of the local municipalities for information.

2. PURPOSE

This report is to seek approval from Transportation and Works Committee and Regional Council for two municipal streetscaping projects on Regional roads in conformance with the Region's approved for the 2008 Municipal Streetscape Partnership Policy (*see Attachment 1*).

3. BACKGROUND

In October 2006 Regional Council approved the policy for the Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program (MSPP). This policy set out criteria for potential Regional funding contribution 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 the Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program. The application and evaluation process specified in the

approved policy requires local municipalities to confirm their commitment to fund a proposed project in the fall of the year preceding planned construction. Once this commitment is received, the Region evaluates the potential for a recommendation to Regional Council for commitment of a Regional funding contribution. This timing is required to allow for the appropriate programming of the works at both the Regional and local levels following Council endorsement.

3.1.1 Applications

This year, a total of two applications were received - from the Town of Georgina (*Attachment 2*) and Town of East Gwillimbury (*Attachment 3*) - for streetscape enhancements. This report will summarize the scope of work and amount the application is eligible to receive based on the proposal type.

3.1.2 Town of Georgina

The Town of Georgina's vision is to create a town entrance feature wall at the north-east corner of Woodbine Avenue and Ravenshoe Road which is a main intersection into the Town and where intense future development is proposed. In addition, a crosswalk, as well as a median treatment including a stone monument, and pedestrian scale lighting is also proposed along Woodbine Avenue north of Ravenshoe to Glenwoods Avenue. The proposal is linked to the Region's Woodbine Avenue project and will appropriately mark the gateway into Keswick. Furthermore, the proposal will also enhance this intersection as MTO is extending Highway 404 north to terminate at Ravenshoe Road and Woodbine Avenue. This proposal is in an urban area which makes the project eligible for 50% Regional funding. The Town of Georgina has committed the other 50% in two separate Council Resolutions dated July 31, 2006 and February 26, 2007.

3.1.3 Town of East Gwillimbury

As part of the East Gwillimbury plan to create a civic square and enhanced streetscape at Leslie Street and Mount Albert, the application consists of elements including a landscaped median, on-street parking, boulevard enhancements, paved crosswalks, decorative light standards, sidewalk repairs, transit shelter, East Gwillimbury Civic Square Gateway signage, and consultant fees. The last four items are not eligible under the current Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program which was communicated to the applicant.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

In conformance with the approved Regional Policy, Regional staff established a Streetscape Review Committee in March 2007. The Review Committee has reviewed the two applications and has compiled the following summary and recommendation.

4.1 Town of Georgina - Construction

The vision proposed by Town of Georgina will contribute significantly to the local municipality in defining an entrance point into Keswick, which is the largest community

in Town of Georgina. The architectural feature along with the landscape median will set the stage for the identity and character of the future development proposed east of Woodbine Avenue creating a distinct gateway and community within York Region.

The streetscape work will be undertaken along with the capital project in 2008; it is agreed by both York Region and Town of Georgina that a landscape contractor should be contracted to execute the work.

The Streetscape Review Team has circulated comments back to Town of Georgina for minor adjustments to be reflected in the final design submission and recommends that their application be endorsed by Regional Council for construction in 2008 aligned with the capital project.

4.2 Town of East Gwillimbury - Capital Plan/Funding Strategy

The proposed streetscape enhancements that contribute to the Town's plan of their town centre are consistent with the surrounding context and will integrate well with the historic Sharon Temple and provide a more formal approach to the town hall. This proposal will further enhance this area making it a unique pedestrian-scaled neighbourhood.

This ambitious proposal involves a broad range of work which would affect local residents and businesses; a Schedule Class B Environmental Assessment needs to be undertaken before this level of work can be executed.

Although, the Town of East Gwillimbury has indicated its desire to proceed with these streetscaping works in 2008, it has been noted that two Regional projects have been identified as potentially affecting the Town's proposal. The re-surfacing of Leslie Street in this area has been scheduled for 2008; in light of the Highway 404 related closure of Mount Albert Road planned for 2008, the resurfacing may have to be deferred to 2009.

As a result of these potential impacts, the Streetscape Review Team reviewed these issues with the applicant and they have agreed to re-scope the application to minimize throw away of streetscaping works. Furthermore, Town staff are reviewing potential timing for coordination with the Region's pending re-surfacing works. The re-scoped streetscape proposal details anticipated in late September are eligible for 33% Regional contribution in accordance with the Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program.

The Streetscape Review Team recommends that this application be endorsed by Regional Council.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total cost submitted by Town of Georgina for 2008 construction of the entrance feature, intersection streetscape, crosswalk, and median is estimated at \$506,109.23.

Based on their eligibility for 50% funding, the Region would be responsible for half of this amount totalling \$253,055.

As mentioned in the report, the Town of East Gwillimbury is required to re-scope their application and at this time, the total cost to be submitted by Town of East Gwillimbury for 2008 construction is estimated at \$325,000. Based on their eligibility for 33% funding, the Region would be responsible for one-third of this amount totalling \$107,250.

It is recommended that the Region commit to the two projects submitted for 2008 construction. If endorsed by Council Regional, staff will specifically allocate \$360,305 of the estimated \$3 million Regional Streetscape funding to these two projects in the draft 2008 Roads Capital Budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The implementation of the Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program will undoubtedly benefit local municipalities by providing opportunities for enhanced streetscaping within their communities on our Regional roads. Collaboration with local municipalities encourages locally initiated streetscaping projects which benefits 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 funding program with approximately \$1.0M reserve budgeted per fiscal year for the purpose of partnership funding with local municipalities on streetscape enhancements within the Regional right-of-ways. This year, two applications were made to the Region from Town of Georgina and Town of East Gwillimbury. The Streetscape Review Team has reviewed the applications according to the policy's criteria and find them satisfactory in the enhancement and beautification of our Regional right-of-ways and recommend the release of funds for these projects.

For more information on this report contact Dino Basso, Director, Capital Delivery, Roads Branch at extension 5902 in the Transportation and Works Department.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

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