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TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN UPDATE STUDY BUDGET

The Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report dated September 17, 2008, from the Commissioner of Planning and Development Services and Commissioner of Transportation Services:

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. Approval be given to increase the expenditure limit of the Purchase Order issued to MMM Group for consultant assistance in the Transportation Master Plan Update study by the amount of \$250,000 from \$249,670 to \$499,670, excluding G.S.T.

2. PURPOSE

This report seeks Regional Council authorisation for an increase in the study budget of the Transportation Master Plan Update Study to account for changes in the scope of work.

3. BACKGROUND

Transportation Master Plan (TMP) Update study was awarded in March 2006 as a standalone study

The Terms of Reference for the TMP Update study was drafted in the Fall of 2005 and followed the same approach used in the original 2002 TMP study. It was to be a standalone study looking at transportation issues and challenges in York Region and updating the recommendations of the 2002 TMP. The contract for consultant assistance was awarded in March 2006 on the basis of that Terms of Reference.

Related studies followed different streams and schedules

The Water and Wastewater Master Plan Update study did not begin until the Summer of 2006 when the consultant assistance contract was awarded. It was also designed as a standalone study.

Regional Council approved the framework for a comprehensive Region-wide Growth Management review and Official Plan update in October 2004. Most of the work on the

Growth Management review is being conducted in-house with some elements being contracted out.

The York Region Sustainability Strategy was adopted by Regional Council in draft form in March 2007 and in final form in October 2007. The purpose of the Sustainability Strategy is to provide a long-term framework for making smarter decisions about growth management and municipal responsibilities that better integrate the economy, environment and community.

This report deals specifically with the budgetary impacts of a decision made in the Summer of 2006 to integrate and coordinate the infrastructure master plan studies (transportation and water-wastewater) with the Growth Management review as well as other changes to the Transportation Master Plan Update study.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

In addition to addressing the 5-year update requirement of York Region's Official Plan, the TMP Update study is also addressing the new Provincial Places to Grow Plan and policies such as the Greenbelt Plan and Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. However, further requirements on the TMP Update study came to light after the study was initiated.

Conformity with Sustainability Strategy through development of transportation sustainability principles

With Council adoption of the York Region Sustainability Strategy, the Transportation Master Plan Update has to be in conformance with it. That necessitated the development of a set of transportation sustainability principles, goals, actions and indicators that is consistent with the Sustainability Strategy. This was an increase in the scope of work.

Study design, schedule and budget implications as a result of the decision to integrate and coordinate the TMP Update, Water and Wastewater Master Plan Update and Growth Management studies

As noted above, each of the three main studies were initiated at different times and were to follow different schedules to reach completion. The decision to integrate and coordinate them is so that there is appropriate data sharing and feedback between the three studies at the appropriate times to reflect a more comprehensive and sustainable approach to planning in York Region particularly in terms of land use and infrastructure planning.

A major component of the Growth Management review is to prepare growth scenarios that would be assessed for infrastructure, human services and fiscal implications before a preferred growth scenario is arrived at. This required a coordinated schedule of data

development, analysis and feedback between the three studies. Undoubtedly, this necessitated a change in the study design and schedule of the TMP Update study. What was expected to be a two-year study will now take about 3 years to complete.

Another key change resulting from this integration and coordination were the joint public consultations between the two infrastructure master plan studies. This meant joint publications, notices and presentation materials (electronic, paper and display boards). These required additional efforts on the part of those involved in the two studies.

The consultant awarded the contract to provide assistance in completing the TMP Update study based their proposal and budget on the standalone TMP Update study as defined in the Terms of Reference. With the integration and coordination of the three studies, additional efforts were required of the TMP Update consultant team.

Additional budget required for changes in scope of work totals \$200,000

With these changes in the scope of work, MMM Group has requested additional budget to cover the additional efforts expended to this point in the study. Staff has reviewed and discussed the requested amount with MMM Group and agreed upon an amount of about \$150,000 which includes additional steering and technical advisory committee meetings necessitated by the changes in scope of work and length of the study.

The effect of the integration and coordination resulting in the scope of work change impacts the rest of the study as well. Staff estimates that an additional \$50,000 may be necessary to cover budget increases to the end of the study to address changes in the study design and schedule.

Staff approved the conduct of a public opinion survey to gauge public attitudes on traffic congestion, potential solutions and other key transportation issues

Based on recent public reactions to a number of on-going road related environmental assessment studies and the type of comments received, staff felt that a better understanding of the public mood and opinion on traffic congestion and transportation issues was needed. The information collected would greatly assist staff and MMM Group to formulate better solutions to meet the needs of our residents and to address the demands of growth.

Consequently, staff approved a survey that was conducted over June and July 2008. The cost for the survey is about \$40,000. These funds are already expended. The main results of this survey are being reported in a separate staff report on the October 1, 2008 Planning and Economic Development Committee.

An expanded final round of public consultation centres is recommended in light of the high degree of resident interest in transportation issues

As is noted above regarding resident interest in on-going transportation projects and a major finding from the opinion survey showing transportation related issues as being the most important in the minds of York Region residents, staff is recommending that the final round of public consultation centres (PCC) for the TMP Update study be expanded beyond the initial 3 meeting locations planned.

The initial locations were to be Richmond Hill, Whitchurch-Stouffville and Newmarket. Staff recommends that two other locations be added to the next round of PCC, namely in Markham and Vaughan. To ensure that sufficient budget is available to cover unanticipated requests for other types of consultation such as stakeholder meetings, an increase in the consultation budget of \$10,000 is requested.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Requested budget increase exceeds available room allowed by Purchasing Bylaw

The original budget for the TMP Update study is \$250,000. York Region's purchasing bylaw allows a total increase of 35% in the budget of a standard contract to cover contingencies and minor changes in the scope of work. For the TMP Update study, the limit is approximately \$87,000. The total budget increase requested in this report exceeds that limit and is summarised in Table 1.

Table 1
TMP Update Study Budget Increase

Item	Budget Increase
Scope of work change to-date	\$150,000
Scope of work change remaining	\$50,000
Public opinion survey	\$40,000
Expanded consultation	\$10,000
BUDGET INCREASE	\$250,000

Staff recommends that the purchase order for MMM Group be increased by \$250,000 to cover the expected increase in the cost of consultant assistance to complete the TMP Update study.

This proposed budget increase of \$250,000 represents about one-quarter of one percent of the 2008 Roads Capital Budget. Funds are available through project #83480 in the 10-year Road Capital Plan.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Results of the public opinion survey provide valuable information on the attitudes of residents from specific areas of York Region

As detailed in a separate staff report, the findings of the survey indicate major differences in opinion on transportation issues between the residents of Markham, Vaughan and Richmond Hill. The results and findings of the survey have important implications for transportation planning in York Region and will be shared with the local municipalities.

An expanded final round of public consultation centres will provide greater opportunities for more residents and stakeholders to review and comment on the draft recommendations of the TMP Update

Staff is recommending that the final round of PCCs be expanded to include the major urban areas of York Region.

7. CONCLUSION

The Transportation Master Plan Update study started out as a standalone study. The decision to integrate and coordinate it with the Water and Wastewater Master Plan Update study and the Growth Management review impacted the study design and schedule. This represents a change in the scope of work and has budget implications.

Together with other additions to the TMP Update study including conducting a public opinion survey and expanding the final round of public consultation, these changes will result in an estimated budget increase of \$250,000.

This report seeks Regional Council approval for an increase of \$250,000 to the contract with MMM Group.

For more information on this report, please contact Loy Cheah, Manager, Transportation Planning, Infrastructure Planning Branch at 905-830-4444, Ext. 5024 or Paul May, Director, Infrastructure Planning at Ext. 5029.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.