

**VAUGHAN METROPOLITAN CENTRE STREETScape AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
PRESENTATION OF DRAFT PLAN
FILE 25.5.12.2
WARD 4**

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Planning, Interim Director of Planning/Director of Development Planning, and Manager of Urban Design recommend:

1. That the presentation entitled 'Draft Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Streetscape and Open Space Plan, be received.

Contribution to Sustainability

The proposed Vaughan Metropolitan Centre (VMC) Streetscape and Open Space Plan contributes to the goals and objectives within *Green Directions Vaughan*, the City's Community Sustainability and Environmental Master Plan, specifically:

Goal 1: To significantly reduce our use of natural resources and the amount of waste we generate.

Objective 1.3 "To support enhanced standards of stormwater management at the City and work with others to care for Vaughan's watersheds"

Goal 2: To ensure sustainable development and redevelopment.

Objective 2.2 "To develop Vaughan as a City with maximum greenspace and an urban form that supports our expected population growth"

Goal 3: To ensure that getting around in Vaughan is easy and has a low environmental impact.

Objective 3.1 "To develop and sustain a network of sidewalks, paths and trails that supports all modes of non-vehicular transportation"

Goal 4: To create a vibrant community for citizens, businesses and visitors.

Objective 4.1 "To foster a city with strong social cohesion, an engaging arts scene, and a clear sense of its culture and heritage"

Objective 4.2 "To ensure that the City of Vaughan attracts businesses and investment that will result in well-paying jobs for Vaughan citizens, a sustainable tax base, and continuing prosperity into the 21st century"

Goal 5: To be a leader on sustainability issues.

Economic Impact

Implementation strategies, including the costing of streetscapes, are a key deliverable outlined in the scope of work for this Study, and will be included as part of the final report. Additional information to inform implementation of streetscapes will be provided through the City-Wide Streetscape Implementation Manual and Financial Strategy that is scheduled to be brought

forward to a Committee of the Whole (Working Session) and Council consideration in September 2014.

Communications Plan

City staff have communicated with landowners, Toronto Transit Commission, York Region Transit, vivaNext, and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority throughout the Study process to ensure coordination with their respective interests. Study progress updates are posted on the City of Vaughan website.

Purpose

To provide the members of the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Sub-Committee with a presentation of the draft Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Streetscape and Open Space Plan for information and input.

Background - Analysis and Options

The success of the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre will depend in great part upon the activation of the public realm through "place making" and the coordinated implementation of public realm infrastructure. Forward-thinking and sustainable design strategies for streetscapes, parks, and open spaces in terms of social, economic, and environmental sustainability have been key considerations throughout this project.

The policies and the public realm network as set out in the VMC Secondary Plan are the foundation for the VMC Streetscape and Open Space Plan. Building upon the Secondary Plan, the VMC Streetscape and Open Space Plan focuses on "place making" as a framework to bring together individual development projects into a sum greater than the parts. Implementation must be accomplished through a partnership between public and private sectors with a common vision of how the new downtown comes together.

The City's current level of service on streetscapes and parks does not address the urban requirements for the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre. The VMC Streetscape and Open Space Plan identifies new urban park and public realm considerations that are necessary to guide the development of an accessible, dynamic, and pedestrian-friendly urban area. In addition, the City of Vaughan is in the process of developing the City-Wide Streetscape Implementation Manual and Financial Strategy to identify streetscape maintenance standards and costs for intensification areas, including the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre. The design and costing of streetscapes in the VMC Streetscape and Open Space Plan will be based upon the proposed City-Wide Streetscape Implementation Manual and Financial Strategy which is scheduled to be presented to a Committee of the Whole (Working Session) and for Council consideration in September 2014.

STUDY GOALS:

The study goals for the VMC Streetscape and Open Space Plan are to:

- Define and communicate a strong visual identity for the new downtown's public realm;
- Define catalytic public realm design strategies and tactics to promote cultural, social, commercial and active lifestyle activities in the new downtown;
- Support the sustainability goals of the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Secondary Plan and Green Directions Vaughan;
- Reconnect the urban fabric with a renewed Black Creek;
- Enhance the pedestrian and cycling experience to encourage alternate modes of mobility;
- Incorporate public art into the public realm;

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- Promote design excellence in the public and private realms;
- Identify phasing and implementation strategies for the public realm.

CONSULTATION TO DATE:

- i. At the January 26, 2012 Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Sub-Committee of Council, the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Streetscape and Open Space Plan was included in Agenda Item 4.2 for the Consideration/Information of the Committee as a new Study being undertaken by the City.
- ii. January 31, 2013, the 'Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Streetscape and Open Space Plan: Design Concept' was presented to the City of Vaughan Design Review Panel for advisory design input.
- iii. At the February 14, 2013 Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Sub-Committee of Council, the 'Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Streetscape and Open Space Plan: Design Concept' was presented and received.
- iv. On May 4, 2013, a Stakeholder Consultation Meeting was held at City Hall. The design concept for the VMC Streetscape and Open Space Plan was presented for discussion and input.

FUTURE CONSULTATION:

A Stakeholder Information Session will be held in Q4 2014 to present the final Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Streetscape and Open Space Plan.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

The Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Streetscape and Open Space Plan is consistent with the priorities set forth in Vaughan Vision 2020 Strategic Plan, specifically:

Service Excellence:

- Lead & Promote Environmental Sustainability
- Preserve our Heritage & Support Diversity, Arts & Culture

Organizational Excellence:

- Manage Corporate Assets
- Ensure Financial Sustainability
- Manage Growth & Economic Well-being

Regional Implications

York Region, VivaNext, York Region Rapid Transit, and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority are involved as stakeholders in this project. The Study supports key elements of the Region of York Official Plan, adopted by Regional Council on December 16, 2009, including: "City building, focusing on Regional Centres and Corridors and including innovation in urban design and green building".

Conclusion

The draft Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Streetscape and Open Space Plan follows the vision, principles, objectives, and policy framework set out in the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Secondary Plan.

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City staff are presenting the draft in order to provide an update on the progress of the Study, and to receive input from the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Sub-Committee of Council and landowners before the Plan is presented for Committee of the Whole (Working Session) and Council consideration in September 2014.

Attachments

N/A

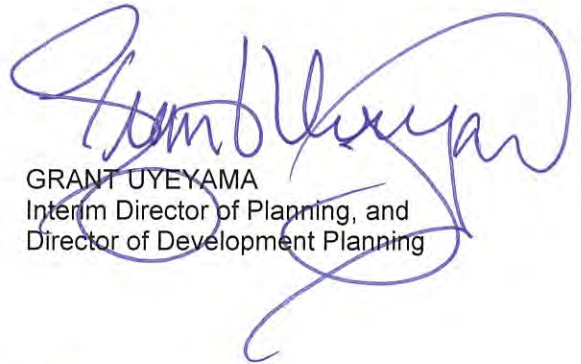
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Respectfully submitted,



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