

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 27, 2014

Item 3, Report No. 2, of the Priorities and Key Initiatives Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on May 27, 2014.

**3 RELOCATION OF HYDRO TRANSMISSION LINES – UPDATE
 HIGHWAY 7 – WEST OF JANE STREET
 VAUGHAN METROPOLITAN CENTRE
 WARD 4**

The Priorities and Key Initiatives Committee recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the City Clerk, on behalf of the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Sub-Committee, dated May 12, 2014:

Recommendation

The City Clerk, on behalf of the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Sub-Committee, forwards the following recommendation from its meeting of April 9, 2014, for consideration:

- 1) That the recommendation contained in the following report of the Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works and the Director of Development/Transportation Engineering dated April 9, 2014, be approved;
- 2) That the presentation by the Director of Development/Transportation Engineering be received;
- 3) That the following recommendation be approved:
 1. That staff organize, as soon as possible, a stakeholders meeting along with PowerStream and York Region Rapid Transit working towards a cost sharing agreement with adjacent landowners for undergrounding hydro lines in the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre; and
- 4) That the following deputations be received:
 1. Ms. Paula Bustard, Director of Land Development, SmartCentres, Applewood Crescent, Vaughan; and
 2. Mr. Giovanni Marcelli, Potestas Properties, Jane Street, Concord.

Report of the Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works and the Director of Development/Transportation Engineering, dated April 9, 2014

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works and the Director of Development/Transportation Engineering, in consultation with the Executive Director, Office of the City Manager, recommend:

1. That this report be forwarded to the Priorities & Key Initiatives Committee meeting of May 12, 2014; and
2. That a copy of this report be forwarded to the Region of York, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation and PowerStream.

Contribution to Sustainability

The undergrounding of hydro lines contributes to sustainability by simplifying the streetscape, reducing the requirement for tree trimming, unencumbering the pedestrian pathways and

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reducing the exposure of the hydro lines to the natural elements that can cause power outages. However, it is more expensive to install underground hydro lines.

Economic Impact

There are no immediate economic impacts associated with the recommendations of this report.

Communications Plan

There is no specific communication plan associated with this report other than to forward a copy of this report to York Region, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation and PowerStream.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the results of staff's discussions with the relevant stakeholders regarding funding opportunities for the undergrounding of the existing hydro transmission lines and utilities on the north side of Highway 7 west of Jane Street.

Background - Analysis and Options

Council, at its meeting on April 23, 2013 directed:

"That staff explore funding options for the undergrounding of the hydro transmission lines and utilities on the north side of Highway 7 west of Jane Street in conjunction with the VivaNext H2-VMC Rapidway Project including cost-sharing agreements with key stakeholders, and report back to the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Sub-Committee Meeting in June 2013."

Construction of the H2-VMC VivaNext Rapidway in Vaughan is underway

The first stage of the VivaNext Rapidway in Vaughan extends along Highway 7 from approximately Edgeley Boulevard to Bowes Road, and is referred to as the H2-VMC segment. This phase of the project is scheduled to be completed concurrently with the opening of the Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension in 2016. One of the first steps in the construction program is the relocation of the existing utilities starting with the hydro lines.

The relocation of the hydro lines on Highway 7 east of Jane Street is nearing completion

In the Fall of 2013, PowerStream began the relocation/installation of the new hydro lines on Highway 7 east of Jane Street. Upon completion of the hydro works, there will be pole lines on both the north and south sides of Highway 7 as shown on Attachment 1.

Based on discussions with the developer of the EXPO City buildings on the north side of Highway 7 and PowerStream staff, there may be opportunities in the future to bury the hydro lines within the additional road widening that the Region will be acquiring through development approvals. A source of funding for this possible future undergrounding work would still need to be identified.

Hydro line relocation west of Jane Street will begin in the summer of 2014

The design of the hydro relocation within the section of the Rapidway project between Jane Street and Edgley Boulevard cannot commence until the construction of the subway within the Highway 7 corridor is substantially completed in the summer of 2014. Accordingly, a window of opportunity was available until last Fall 2013 to further explore the undergrounding option in this segment of Highway 7.

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A segment of the hydro lines west of Jane Street will be relocated underground

PowerStream staff has advised that the current design provides for the relocation of the existing hydro lines, consisting of two 27.6 KV circuits, on the north side of Highway 7. The design also makes provisions for an additional two circuits when needed in the future to service the development in the VMC.

The Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension project has committed to pay the incremental cost of undergrounding the hydro lines within the subway corridor. In addition, PowerStream will be extending the undergrounding of the hydro lines from the subway corridor to the east side of Jane Street to address system continuity and corridor constraints issues.

Accordingly, the current relocation plan provides for underground hydro from the east side of Jane Street to the west side of the subway corridor and then a pole line westerly to Edgeley Boulevard where it reconnects with the existing plant as shown on Attachment 1.

Undergrounding the balance of the hydro lines (west side of the subway corridor to Edgeley Boulevard) will cost approximately an additional \$1.5 million

A number of meetings were held with City and PowerStream staff together with representatives from SmartCentres to discuss the opportunity to bury the hydro lines on the north side of Highway 7 from the west side of the subway corridor to Edgeley Boulevard and the related incremental cost. At one of the meetings, PowerStream indicated that a technical review would be required to determine if a corridor was available on the north side of Highway 7 to bury the hydro lines. However, assuming a corridor was available either on the boulevard or an easement, the incremental capital cost to bury this section of hydro lines would be approximately \$1.5 million.

No private sector funding is available for the incremental cost to bury the hydro lines from the west side of the subway corridor to Edgeley Boulevard

As overviewed in Item 4, Report No. 3 of the Priorities and Key Initiatives Committee on April 15, 2013, the only immediate source of funding for the incremental cost of undergrounding the hydro lines is through cost-sharing agreements with the adjacent landowner, which in this case is SmartCentres.

Following a number of discussions with staff over the summer/fall 2013, SmartCentres advised that there is no viable business case at this time to fund the incremental cost (\$1.5 million) to bury the hydro lines west of the subway corridor. SmartCentres expressed a willingness to continue to work with the City to explore future opportunities to bury the hydro lines through the development of their adjacent lands.

York Region Rapid Transit Corporation to proceed with the hydro relocation west of Jane Street as planned

Given that there was no available funding source to pay the incremental cost of burying the hydro lines west of the subway corridor, City staff advised York Region Rapid Transit Corporation to proceed with the aerial relocation as originally planned.

Staff will continue to pursue opportunities to underground the hydro lines along Highway 7 within the VMC in conjunction with the next phase of the Rapidway and through development approvals.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, the recommendations of this report will assist in:

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- The pursuit of excellence in service delivery;
- Planning and managing growth, and economic vitality; and
- The demonstration of leadership and promotion of effective governance.

Specific Strategic Plan Initiatives applicable to the recommendations made in this report include Vaughan's corporate priorities to support and plan high capacity transit at strategic locations throughout the City. Accordingly, this report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council.

Regional Implications

York Region Rapid Transit Corporation is the proponent of the H2-VMC Rapidway project. The undergrounding of utilities is consistent with the Region of York Official Plan policies so the Region should provide sufficient space in their right-of-ways to accommodate undergrounding within Regional Centres and Corridors.

Conclusion

A segment of the existing aerial hydro lines on the north side Highway 7 and west of Jane Street will be relocated as a component of the H2-VMC Highway 7 Rapidway project. The current relocation plan provides for underground hydro lines from the east side of Jane Street to the west side of the subway corridor and then a pole line westerly to Edgeley Boulevard where it reconnects with the existing plant.

Staff did explore the opportunities to extend the undergrounding of the hydro lines to Edgeley Boulevard but were not able to secure the necessary private sector funding. Staff will continue to pursue opportunities to underground the hydro lines along Highway 7 within the VMC in conjunction with the next phase of the Rapidway project and through development approvals.

Attachments

1. Hydro Network Location - VMC

Report prepared by:

Andrew Pearce, Director of Development/Transportation Engineering, Ext 8255

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)