

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 27, 2017

Item 2, Report No. 24, of the Committee of the Whole (Working Session), which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 27, 2017.

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**HIGHWAY 427 EXPANSION PROJECT UPDATE
THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION OF ONTARIO
WARDS 1 AND 2 – WEST VAUGHAN EMPLOYMENT AREA**

The Committee of the Whole (Working Session) recommends:

- 1) That the recommendation contained in the following report of the Deputy City Manager, Planning and Growth Management and the Director of Development Engineering and Infrastructure Planning, dated June 6, 2017, be approved; and
- 2) That the presentation by Mr. Dean Kemper, Ministry of Transportation, Sir William Osler, Downsview, and Communication C2, presentation material titled “Highway 427 Expansion”, dated June 6, 2016, be received.

Recommendation

The Deputy City Manager, Planning and Growth Management and the Director of Development Engineering and Infrastructure Planning recommend:

1. THAT the presentation from the Ministry of Transportation on the status of the Highway 427 Expansion project be received.

Contribution to Sustainability

The proposed Highway 427 Expansion contributes to sustainability by addressing the existing inter-regional transportation constraints related to the current Highway 427 terminus and by enhancing goods movement to and from the CPR Vaughan Intermodal facility. In addition, the expansion of Highway 427 to Major Mackenzie Drive together with the full interchanges at Langstaff Road, Rutherford Road and Major Mackenzie Drive will facilitate the planned growth in the City, in particular the West Vaughan Employment area.

Economic Impact

Adoption of this report has no economic impact.

Communication Plan

In March 2017, the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) awarded the Design-Build-Finance-Maintain (DBFM) contract for the Highway 427 Expansion to “LINK 427” Consortium. The Design-Build phase of the project is expected to take place between 2017 and 2022.

City staff was informed by MTO that LINK 427 is currently developing a comprehensive communication plan and a draft of the plan is expected to be available in June 2017. As part of the communication plan, LINK 427 will be establishing a dedicated communication team to coordinate and relay all project-related information to the public and stakeholders. Further details on LINK 427’s communication program and key contact information will be provided as part of MTO’s presentation.

A number of Public Information Centres (PICs) are planned as part of the communication strategy. These information sessions will provide the opportunity for residents and businesses in the area to access current information on the project status and anticipated highway construction

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schedule. The first of these PICs is anticipated to be held in the Q4-2017. In addition, it is expected that LINK 427 will provide project updates to the public and stakeholders via various media outlets (social media, newsletters) and establish a project office in the Highway 7/Highway 27 area.

City staff will work with LINK 427, MTO and York Region to minimize impacts on residents and businesses in the area and keep Council regularly informed of the project's development.

Purpose

This report and associated presentation from MTO staff is intended to provide Council with a status update on the Highway 427 Expansion project in Vaughan.

Background and Current Status

In October 2010, MTO received approval of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the extension of Highway 427 from its current terminus at Highway 7 to Major Mackenzie Drive. The approved EA recommended a 6.6-kilometre extension and the construction of three new interchanges at Langstaff Road, Rutherford Road and Major Mackenzie Drive West as well as protection for a dedicated transitway along the west side of the extension and three transitway stations. As part of the Highway 427 Expansion project, the interim Regional arterial road extension between Highway 7 and Zenway Boulevard will be assumed by MTO and reconstructed.

In May 2013, the Province made a public commitment to commence construction of the Highway 427 Expansion by 2016/17. Infrastructure Ontario (IO) and MTO are proceeding to implement this commitment as illustrated on Attachment 1.

The final configuration for Highway 427 between Highway 7 and Major Mackenzie Drive extension will be as follows:

- Eight lanes from Highway 7 to Rutherford Road and six lanes from Rutherford Road to Major Mackenzie Drive
- Three new interchanges (Langstaff Road, Rutherford Road and Major Mackenzie Drive)
- New median High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes

In addition to the above, a 4-kilometre road widening from Finch Avenue to Highway 7 is included as part of the Highway 427 Expansion project, with the following configuration:

- A 4 kilometre road widening from Finch Avenue to Highway 7
- From six to eight lanes between Finch Avenue to south of Steeles Avenue
- From four to eight lanes from south of Steeles Avenue to Highway 7
- New median HOT lanes

Since September 2014, MTO has been conducting regular monthly liaison meetings with staff from the City of Vaughan and York Region to discuss and coordinate preliminary engineering work for the Highway 427 Expansion and related projects in the study area.

The John Lawrie Street – Highway 427 crossing structures have been included in the Highway 427 Expansion project

Following the completion of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for John Lawrie Street between Highway 27 and Huntington Road in 2015, the City requested MTO to include the crossing structures in the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Highway 427 Expansion DBFM

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undertaking. In March 2016, MTO and IO released the RFP which included the John Lawrie Street – Highway 427 crossing structures. An agreement between the City and MTO with regards to the reimbursement of capital, long-term rehabilitation and maintenance costs of the John Lawrie Street – Highway 427 crossing structures was executed in March 2017.

Accordingly, the John Lawrie Street – Highway 427 crossing structures will be constructed in conjunction with the Highway 427 Expansion project.

In March 2017, Infrastructure Ontario and MTO announced that the Design-Build-Finance-Maintain undertaking for the Highway 427 Expansion project had been awarded to the LINK 427 Consortium

In March 2017, MTO awarded the DBFM contract for the 427 Expansion project to LINK 427 Consortium. LINK 427 is currently developing a detailed project work plan but it is anticipated that the initial focus will be on the detailed design of the Highway in 2017 with construction commencing in 2018.

The realignment of McGillivray Road will be carried out in conjunction with the construction of Highway 427 Expansion under a separate contract

The Highway 427 EA identified that need to realign the existing intersection of McGillivray Road at Rutherford Road to address a spacing conflict with the proposed Rutherford Road/Highway 427 interchange. In March 2016, MTO released a Transportation Environmental Assessment Report (TESR) that identified the preferred realignment of McGillivray Road would be to the east and intersect with Rutherford Road opposite the proposed future Di Poce Way in Block 59 as shown on Attachment 2.

The realignment of McGillivray Road will be carried out in conjunction with the construction of Highway 427 Expansion but under a separate contract. More information on the construction timing and staging will be provided to Vaughan Council once it is available.

Relationship to Term of Council Service Excellence Strategy Map (2014-2018)

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to the Term of Council Service Excellence Strategy Map, the recommendation of this report will assist in:

- Improving municipal road network
- Continuing to develop transit, cycling and pedestrian options to get around the City
- Investing, renewing and managing infrastructure assets
- Attracting investment and creating jobs

Regional implications

As a key stakeholder, York Region has been involved in regular meetings to discuss and coordinate various aspects of the Highway 427 Expansion on municipal infrastructure projects including the widening and reconstruction of Major Mackenzie Drive and the proposed full move interchanges at Langstaff Road, Rutherford Road and Major Mackenzie Drive.

Conclusion

In March 2017, MTO awarded the Design-Build-Finance-Maintain contract for the Highway 427 Expansion project to the LINK 427 Consortium. The design-build phase of the project has commenced. In the coming months, LINK 427 Consortium will be developing a detailed staging and construction schedule for the project. It is anticipated that the construction of the Highway 427 Expansion will begin in late 2017 and extend through to 2021-22.

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The construction of the John Lawrie Street – Highway 427 crossing structures and the realignment of McGillivray Road will be carried out in conjunction with the Highway 427 Expansion project.

City staff will continue to work with LINK 427, MTO and York Region to minimize impacts on residents and businesses in the area, and keep Council regularly informed of the progress of the project.

Attachment

1. MTO Highway 427 Expansion Map
2. McGillivray Road Realignment

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(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.)