

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 21, 2017

Item 2, Report No. 41, of the Committee of the Whole (Working Session), which was adopted, as amended, by the Council of the City of Vaughan on November 21, 2017, as follows:

By approving that staff provide a report on the integrated fare issue by early 2018;

By approving that Metrolinx be advised the Concord GO Station is a vital component of the transportation network required to enable and realize the vision of the integrated comprehensive transit network within southern York Region;

By approving that appropriate staff provide by way of memorandum comments on the article in the Toronto Star (Opinion Editorial), dated November 20, 2017, regarding Metrolinx; and

By receiving Communication C8 from Mr. Jack Weinberg, South Central York Region – Congestion Relief Committee, dated November 21, 2017.

**2 METROLINX DRAFT 2041 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN
CITY-WIDE**

The Committee of the Whole (Working Session) recommends:

- 1) That the recommendation contained in the following report of the Deputy City Manager of Public Works and the Manager of Transportation Planning, dated November 13, 2017, be approved, subject to adding the following:
 1. That recommendation 2. be amended by adding:
That Metrolinx recommend to the funding authorities that this project be funded immediately to allow for the ongoing development of the project beyond its current phase of 30% design/engineering;
 2. That the Bolton Go Rail service (Union Station to Bolton) as referenced on page 2.3 of the report of the Deputy City Manager of Public Works and the Manager of Transportation Planning, dated November 13, 2017, be developed in two phases, with phase 1 being Union Station to Woodbridge and deemed a “proposed project”, and phase 2, Woodbridge to Bolton, remain a “future project”;
 3. That the City of Vaughan send a letter to Metrolinx reaffirming its “evidence based” support of the Kirby Go Station in order to support complete communities by aligning the transportation network with land use in Blocks 27, 34, and 41; and
 4. That the City of Vaughan Council ask York Region Council to forward a letter to Metrolinx in full support of the Kirby Go Station in order to support complete communities by aligning the transportation network with land use in Blocks 27, 34, and 41;
- 2) That the presentation by Mr. Antoine Belaieff, Director Regional Planning, Planning and Policy, Metrolinx, Front Street West, Toronto and Communication C2, presentation material, entitled, “*Creating Connections in the City of Vaughan*”, be received; and
- 3) That Communication C1, memorandum from the Deputy City Manager, Public Works, dated November 10, 2017, be received.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 21, 2017

Item 2, CW(WS) Report No. 41 – Page 2

Recommendation

The Deputy City Manager of Public Works and the Manager of Transportation Planning recommend:

1. That Council endorse Metrolinx's draft 2041 Regional Transportation Plan subject to the following clarifications:
 - a. Confirmation that the conceptual new freight corridor depicted as part of the "In Delivery" Regional and Rail Rapid Transit Network will not increase freight rail traffic through the City of Vaughan;
 - b. Inclusion of the Major Mackenzie Drive (Jane Street – Yonge Street) and Jane Street (Highway 7 – Major Mackenzie Drive) as Primary Routes in the Regional Cycling Network of the Draft 2041 Regional Transportation Plan being critical to providing mobility options in the sustainable development of Mackenzie Vaughan Hospital, the Vaughan Mills Centre Secondary Plan, and Vaughan Metropolitan Centre;
2. That Council support the prioritization of the Yonge Subway Extension to Richmond Hill as a key rapid transit project to be completed as part of the 2041 Rapid Transit Network and to support York Region Council's position and timeline for implementation;
3. That Council acknowledge the inclusion of the Major Mackenzie BRT/ LRT (Jane Street – Leslie Street) and Jane North BRT/ LRT (Highway 7 – Major Mackenzie Drive) projects in the Draft 2041 Regional Transportation Plan, and re-affirm that they are priorities for the City, and are necessary to support the sustainable development of Mackenzie Vaughan Hospital, the Vaughan Mills Centre Secondary Plan, and Vaughan Metropolitan Centre (VMC);
4. That Metrolinx be advised of Council's continued request to include a new GO station on the Barrie corridor in Concord, by 2025 as part of the Regional Express Rail initiative, in the 2041 Regional Transportation Plan;
5. That the comments set out in Attachment 3 of this report be endorsed by Council as the City's comments to Metrolinx on the Draft 2041 Regional Transportation Plan;
6. That Staff be directed to work closely with Metrolinx during implementation of the Regional Transportation Plan, and investigate the establishment of a dedicated team to facilitate Metrolinx projects within the City;
7. That the City Clerk circulate this report to Metrolinx and York Region; and
8. That Council ratify the action taken.

Contribution to Sustainability

A goal of Metrolinx's Draft 2041 Regional Transportation Plan (2041 RTP) is to create Sustainable Communities "...by supporting land use intensification, climate resiliency, and a low-carbon footprint..." The other two goals of the Draft 2041 RTP are to provide Strong Connections and Complete Travel Experiences. These three goals together align with one of the primary objectives of the City's Community Sustainability and Environmental Master Plan – Green Directions, which is to ensure that the City is easy to get around and has a low environmental impact.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 21, 2017

Item 2, CW(W/S) Report No. 41 – Page 3

Economic Impact

There are no immediate economic impacts associated with this report.

Communications Plan

A copy of this report will be forwarded to both York Region and Metrolinx.

Purpose

This report provides a summary of the Draft 2041 Regional Transportation Plan prepared by Metrolinx and released for public review in September 2017, and requests Council endorsement on the staff comments that will be provided to Metrolinx. These comments are due on November 17, 2017. The executive summary of the Draft 2041 RTP has been provided as Attachment 1.

Background and Previous Council Direction

Staff reported to Council in October 2016 on the Regional Transportation Plan Discussion Paper

A summary of the background studies such as Metrolinx's 2008 The Big Move, an overview of the Discussion Paper, and Staff Comments were reported to Committee of the Whole and adopted without amendment by Council on October 19, 2016, see Attachment 2. The Discussion Paper proposed consolidated goals and objectives for the Draft 2041 RTP, and presented an opportunity to provide feedback regarding future transportation system performance. Staff in collaboration with Regional staff reviewed the Discussion Paper and provided comments to Metrolinx.

Draft 2041 Regional Transportation Plan

The Draft 2041 RTP provides a strategic framework for addressing transportation needs in the GTHA. This is articulated in the vision of the Plan:

"The GTHA urban region will have a transportation system that supports complete communities by firmly aligning the transportation network with the land use. The system will provide travelers with convenient and reliable connections and support a high quality of life, a prosperous and competitive economy and a protected environment."

Under this overall vision, the Draft 2041 RTP adopts the following goals: *Strong Connections, Complete Travel Experiences and Sustainable Communities.*

The Draft 2041 RTP identifies five strategies to achieve the vision and goals

In order to realize the vision and goals, five strategies have been identified and are summarized below:

1. Complete the Delivery of Current Regional Transit Projects
2. Connect More of the Region with Frequent Rapid Transit
3. Optimize the Transportation System
4. Integrate Land Use and Transportation
5. Prepare for an Uncertain Future

These five strategies each have several priority actions which are intended to enact each strategy. There are 32 priority actions in total for these five strategies.

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 21, 2017

Item 2, CW(WS) Report No. 41 – Page 4

The implementation plan will be prepared following completion and approval of the 2041 RTP

The Draft 2041 RTP does not include a detailed implementation plan which will be prepared separately, upon completion of the 2041 RTP, in the 2018-2019 timeframe. A number of key actions which will begin the process of developing a Regional Decision-Making framework, determine the capital and operating funding sources, and prioritize the proposed projects identified in the Draft 2041 RTP. The Regional Decision-Making framework is intended to provide a formalized mechanism for municipal leaders, land use and transportation planning officials to inform, participate and make recommendations towards the implementation of the five strategies and their associated priority actions.

Proposed projects within Vaughan

The Draft 2041 RTP categorizes rapid transit projects as In Delivery, In Development, Newly Proposed or Beyond 2041. There are a total of 13 projects located within Vaughan, 11 of which are planned to be implemented by 2041.

In Delivery Projects

In Delivery projects are currently under construction or in the engineering design stages. These projects are scheduled for completion by 2024, and include:

- Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension – opening December 17, 2017
- Highway 7 West BRT (Helen St. to Yonge St.) – opening year 2019
- Barrie Corridor 15-min GO Service (Union Station – Aurora GO) – opening year 2024
- Kirby GO Station – opening year 2024 as part of Barrie Corridor improvements

In Development Projects

In Development projects represent the next wave of projects that meet the near-term transportation needs of the GTHA. These projects have received design and planning commitments from various levels of government, are in various stages of these processes. They include:

- Highway 7 West BRT Extension (Highway 50 – Helen St.)
- Yonge North Subway Extension (Finch Station – Highway 7)

Proposed Projects

Newly proposed projects in the Draft 2041 RTP are intended to complement the In Delivery and In Development projects, providing connectivity between these “spine” services and urban centres, employment nodes and regional destinations. Ultimately, these projects will form a Frequent Rapid Transit Network that provides interconnectivity in the GTHA. Newly proposed projects in Vaughan include:

- Jane Street North BRT/LRT (Highway 7 – Major Mackenzie Dr.)
- Major Mackenzie Drive BRT/LRT (Jane St. – Leslie St.)
- Major Mackenzie Drive Priority Bus (Highway 427 – Jane St.)
- Highway 400 Frequent Regional Express Bus
- Steeles Avenue Priority Bus (Mississauga Rd. – Humber College)

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 21, 2017

Item 2, CW(WS) Report No. 41 – Page 5

Future Projects

Beyond 2041 projects which are not envisioned to be implemented within the 2041 timeframe include:

- Bolton GO Rail Service (Union Station – Bolton)
- Highway 407 Transitway (Hurontario Rd. – Brock Rd.)

The Draft 2041 RTP includes non-infrastructure initiatives to improve mobility across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area

Strategies 3 – 5 reflect a number of initiatives and actions which will benefit the transportation network and mobility within the GTHA, including the City of Vaughan. This includes:

- Developing pedestrian and cycling networks
- Regional transit fare integration
- Defining a Regional Goods Movement System
- Integration of transportation and land use planning
- Preparing for emerging and future trends

These initiatives and actions will not have immediate impacts in terms of tangible projects until further work is completed to advance these strategies. Over the implementation period of the 2041 RTP, it is expected that staff will be asked for feedback, and be required to work collaboratively with Metrolinx to realize these projects. A dedicated team from the City may be required to address the volume of requests from Metrolinx. Staff will review the resource requirements to protect the City's interest and maximize the benefit to our citizens. Additions to capital and operating budget needs will be brought forward as part of future budget processes.

Staff have prepared comments on the Draft 2041 RTP

Staff have reviewed the Draft 2041 RTP, focusing on identifying outstanding comments provided from the Discussion Paper review. A summary of this review is provided in Attachment 3.

The majority of the comments made previously have been directly addressed in the Draft 2041 RTP. Comments related to prioritization, implementation and monitoring of projects, as well as requirements for on-going collaboration, project responsibilities, funding and governance, are still outstanding. These issues are expected to be addressed in the 2041 RTP implementation plan which will be prepared in the 2018-2019 timeframe, and staff will continue to work with Metrolinx to ensure that these items are addressed.

Metrolinx has requested that comments be received by November 17, 2017.

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

This report is consistent with the Term of Council Service Excellence Strategy objectives to:

- Develop transit, cycling and pedestrian (multi-modal) options to get around the City
- Invest, renew and manage infrastructure and assets
- Continue to ensure the safety and well-being of citizens
- Continue to cultivate an environmentally sustainable City

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 21, 2017

Item 2, CW(WS) Report No. 41 – Page 6

Regional Implications

The Draft 2041 RTP will transform transit in the GTHA. Completion of the priority actions noted in the RTP will result in managed growth on roadways, improved transit and cycling connections and travel times, and a more environmentally sustainable transportation system. More options will be available for travelers to travel both within and outside of Vaughan.

York Region reported to its Committee of the Whole with their recommended comments on November 2, 2017. This report is provided as Attachment 4.

Conclusion

The Draft 2041 RTP released by Metrolinx in September 2017 is currently undergoing review by stakeholder municipalities and the public. Comments are due on November 17, 2017, in anticipation of the final 2041 RTP being presented to the Metrolinx Board of Directors in December 2017.

Staff will continue to be involved as the implementation plan for the Draft 2041 RTP is prepared and will work on a long-term basis with Metrolinx to enact the strategies of the plan.

Attachments

1. Executive Summary – Draft 2041 Regional Transportation Plan
2. October 2016 Report to Council – Metrolinx The Regional Transportation Plan
3. City of Vaughan's comments on the Draft 2041 Regional Transportation Plan
4. York Region Report to Committee of the Whole Transportation Services on the Draft Metrolinx 2041 Regional Transportation Plan

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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.)