

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 15, 2015

Item 12, Report No. 44, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on December 15, 2015.

**12 WESTON DOWNS COMPREHENSIVE TRAFFIC STUDY – STATUS UPDATE
WARD 3**

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Deputy City Manager, Public Works and the Director of Transportation Services, Parks and Forestry Operations, dated December 1, 2015:

Recommendation

The Deputy City Manager, Public Works and the Director of Transportation Services, Parks and Forestry Operations recommend:

1. That this report be received for information.

Contribution to Sustainability

This report contributes to the goals and objectives within Green Directions Vaughan, The City's Community Sustainability and Environmental Master Plan, specifically:

Goal 3: To ensure that Vaughan is a city that is easy to get around with a low environmental impact.

Objective 3.2: To develop and sustain a network of roads that supports efficient and accessible public and private transit.

Economic Impact

There is no economic impact associated with this report.

Communications Plan

Hatch Mott MacDonald, in consultation with the city's Corporate Communications department, will develop a proactive communication plan designed to advertise the three public meetings that will engage the residents of Weston Downs and the broader community in this project. A variety of approaches will be employed to reach out to key stakeholders.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to report back on the status of the Weston Downs comprehensive traffic study, including projected milestones and timelines, and to inform the residents of Weston Downs and the broader community of the opportunities for participation as part of the study's community engagement component.

Background - Analysis and Options

Some residents in the Weston Downs community have been concerned with the perceived high-volume of through traffic on the roads within the area.

The Weston Downs area is approximately bounded by Rutherford Road to the north, Weston Road to the east, Langstaff Road to south, and Pine Valley Drive to the west, consisting primarily of large single-detached residences. Approximately 1,846 people reside in the area, which includes two elementary schools (t. Gregory the Great and St. Clare) and two parks (Weston Downs Park and Blue Coin Park).

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Some residents in the Weston Downs community have raised concerns about high volumes of through traffic on the roads within the area.

In June 2015, Council approved Councillor Ferri's Member's Resolution directing City staff, in consultation and partnership with the Regional staff, to complete a comprehensive traffic study of the Weston Downs community to identify and analyze the traffic issues present and recommend a strategy to address the concerns of the residents and the traffic issues identified.

On June 23, 2015, Council approved Councillor Ferri's Member's Resolution directing City staff, in consultation and partnership with Regional staff, to complete a comprehensive traffic study of the Weston Downs Community (Attachment No. 1). The Member's Resolution indicated that this comprehensive traffic study should identify and analyze the traffic issues present and recommend a strategy to address the concerns of the residents and the traffic issues identified.

The Member's Resolution also indicated that this comprehensive traffic study should include a community engagement component, including consultation with the Weston Downs Ratepayers' Association, the Weston Downs community, and the broader community.

City staff, in consultation and partnership with Regional staff, have selected Hatch Mott MacDonald to complete an independent, comprehensive traffic study of the Weston Downs community.

Hatch Mott MacDonald (HMM) traffic consultants have been selected by City staff, in consultation and partnership with Regional staff, through a competitive Request for Proposal process to perform an independent comprehensive traffic study of the Weston Downs area .

As part of the comprehensive traffic study, HMM will identify and analyze the traffic issues present in Weston Downs and the broader community, as well as investigate past local, regional, and provincial transportation decisions to assess their impact on the present issues. HMM will identify short-, medium- and long-term options, which may require local, regional and/or provincial involvement to address the traffic issues identified. HMM subsequently will provide a recommended option(s) and develop a plan for implementing the recommended option(s).

In order to determine a recommended option(s), HMM will incorporate the feedback received from the residents of Weston Downs and the broader community through a community engagement component.

The comprehensive traffic study will include a community engagement component for the residents of Weston Downs and the broader community that uses the road network.

HMM will be working with a professional facilitator to lead the community engagement component to ensure all residents of Weston Downs, and the broader community that, uses the road network have the opportunity to provide feedback to inform the recommended option(s).

The community engagement component will include three public meetings. At the first public meeting, HMM will gain an understanding of the traffic issues from the perspective of the residents of Weston Downs and the broader community prior to commencing the traffic studies. Next, at the second public meeting, HMM will present the results of the traffic issue identification and analysis to the residents of Weston Downs and the broader community and review the options identified to address the traffic issues present and receive feedback from the residents on the options. Finally, at the third and final public meeting, HMM will present the recommended option, informed by resident feedback, and the implementation plan.

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All three public meetings will be held at City facilities within the vicinity of the Weston Dows area and will be advertised through a variety of channels, as per the communication's plan.

To optimize traffic results and increase resident participation in the community engagement component, the comprehensive traffic study will occur from April to July 2016.

November to March are not ideal months for collecting traffic data and it is also more difficult to engage the community during the winter. In order to optimize the traffic results and increase resident participation in the community engagement component, the comprehensive traffic study will occur from April to July 2016.

A report to Council in September 2016 may be necessary depending on the results of the traffic study.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

The recommendations contained in this report support the following objectives of Vaughan Vision 2020:

Service Excellence

- Demonstrate Excellence in Service Delivery
- Promote Community Safety, Health and Wellness

Regional Implications

City staff have been working in consultation and partnership with Regional staff to select HMM to complete the comprehensive traffic review. As the study progresses, the Region will continue to be involved as a partner to determine a recommended option to address identified traffic issues that is amenable to the residents of the Weston Downs community and the broader community.

Conclusion

City staff, in consultation and partnership with Regional staff, have selected HMM traffic consultants to complete an independent, comprehensive traffic study of the Weston Downs community to identify and analyze traffic issues, provide options, including a recommended option(s) to mitigate the traffic issues identified, and to provide an implementation plan. The comprehensive traffic study will include a community engagement component with three public meetings designed to include the residents of Weston Downs and the broader community in determining the final recommendation(s). The community engagement component will be advertised extensively through a variety of channels. The comprehensive traffic study will occur from April to July 2016 to optimize traffic results and public participation in the community engagement component.

Attachments

1. Peak Period Turning Restrictions for Weston Downs Community, Member's Resolution, Councillor Ferri

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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.)