



Report to: Development Services Committee

Date of Report: March 27, 2012

SUBJECT: Main Street Reconstruction Update,
Highway 7 to Bullock Drive – Underground Services
PREPARED BY: Alan Brown, Director of Engineering, ext 7507

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) That the staff report entitled “Main Street Reconstruction Update, Highway 7 to Bullock Drive – Underground Services”, be received;
- 2) And that Main St. Markham from Bullock Drive to Highway 7 be restricted to one lane southbound, and no northbound traffic, from July 2, 2012 to November 19, 2012 to facilitate the replacement of underground services on Main Street;
- 3) And that, Schedule “C” of Traffic By-law 2005-188, restricting parking be amended by including both the west and east sides of Main Street Markham North, between Highway 7 and Bullock Drive;
- 4) And that, upon completion of the project, Schedule “C” of Traffic By-law 2005-188, be amended by rescinding the parking restriction on both sides of Main Street Markham North, between Highway 7 and Bullock Drive;
- 5) And that the Parking Control Department be directed to enforce the parking prohibition upon installation of the signs;
- 6) And that the Director of Engineering be authorized to finalize and implement the traffic management plan in consultation with the Region of York, Operations Department, the Fire and Emergency Services Department, and the Project Liaison Committee;
- 7) And that staff and the Markham Village BIA be authorized to finalize the draft Marketing Plan and implement such;
- 8) And that a maximum \$30,825.00 + HST from capital account (083-5350-12048-005) be authorized to implement the draft Marketing Plan for 2012 subject to conditions specified in this report;
- 9) And that Staff be authorized to proceed with the tender for the underground servicing upgrades from Highway 7 to Bullock Drive based on the construction staging and road closures outlined in this report;
- 10) And that the Robinson Street bridge rehabilitation works be carried out between July and September 2012.
- 11) And that Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

PURPOSE:

To update Council as to issues related to construction activity (underground services) for Main Street Markham (Hwy 7 to Bullock Drive) and to update Council on construction staging, traffic management, parking restrictions, marketing plan and communication plan prior to tendering the replacement of the underground services (watermain and storm sewer) in April 2012. This report also comments on the Robinson Street Bridge Rehabilitation project.

BACKGROUND:**Project Liaison Committee**

Staff, our public facilitator (Rob Ogilvie), local Councillors, and Deputy Mayor Jack Heath have met twice with a Project Liaison Committee (PLC) consisting of stakeholders in the Main Street area. In addition staff, the public facilitator and the local Councillors have also met with the Markham Village BIA twice regarding this project.

In the four meetings the following were reviewed and discussed;

- Status of Environmental Assessment study;
- Approved streetscape concept;
- Approved budget;
- Summary of proposed works;
- Issues related to construction;
- Road closure options;
- Construction staging;
- Draft traffic management plan;
- Communication requirements during construction;
- Pedestrian traffic;
- Business/pedestrian needs during construction;

The following is an update which, subject to Council's approval, will form the basis for inclusion into the tender for Underground Services to be advertised in April 2011.

Construction Staging

On January 24, 2012 Council authorized funding to replace the existing watermain and storm sewer on Main Street (Highway 7 to Bullock Drive) prior to the reconstruction of the road. As the replacement of municipal infrastructure will take approximately 12 to 16 weeks it was determined that the overall contract should be tendered and constructed in two phases.

Phase 1 would be from July 2, 2012 to November 19, 2012 and would include the replacement of the municipal watermain and service connections, installation of new storm sewer, and sanitary sewer repairs. The construction work would commence after the July 1st Canada Day celebrations and be completed before the Festival of Lights and the 40th Santa Claus Parade scheduled for November 24, 2012.

A draft construction and staging schedule for Phase 1 is included as Attachment “A” and is subject to revision based on the successful contractor’s detailed work plan.

Phase 2 would be the road reconstruction (including parking bays) and streetscaping which would commence in July 2013 and be completed by early November 2013.

Road Closure

In order to construct the new watermain and storm sewer, three lanes will have to be closed to traffic to enable the contractor to undertake the work safely and in an expeditious time frame. Pedestrian access would be maintained in the two boulevards except for a limited closure for the installation of new water services to the property line and storm sewer works.

As the watermain and storm sewer installation is proposed for the eastern three travelled lanes of the roadway, one southbound traffic lane will be available for local traffic/deliveries and emergency access. Attachment “B” indicates examples of typical construction activity and work area requirements for this project.

Staff will report back to the PLC, BIA and local Councillors on the feasibility of potentially opening one northbound lane for traffic between Highway 7 and Bullock Drive during a portion of the construction period, after receipt of the contractor’s work plan and schedule.

Traffic Management Plan

Based on the draft construction staging, and required lane closures, Engineering staff and its Engineering Consultant have prepared a draft traffic management plan (Attachment ‘C’) which was reviewed with the PLC, Markham Village BIA and the public at the March 22 Public Meeting. The traffic management plan also takes into account the reconstruction of Markham Road from 16th Avenue to Major MacKenzie Drive this year. This plan re-routes through traffic away from Main Street to utilize the Donald Cousens Parkway and McCowan Road while still advising motorists that Main Street businesses are still open.

Access to the Main Street area (Highway 7 to Bullock Drive) for northbound local traffic, originating from south of Highway 7 will be by travelling around Main Street on surrounding arterial roads and streets.

Comments from the PLC, the Markham Village BIA and from the March 22, 2012 public meeting will be incorporated into the final traffic management plan and included in the April 2012 construction tender.

Operations and the Fire and Emergency Services Departments have also provided comments and will continue to be engaged in the process of finalizing the Traffic Management Plan as will the Region of York. The Traffic Management Plan will continue to evolve and be adjusted during construction to address localized issues.

The Region of York will be requested to monitor and if need be adjust the traffic signals for Main Street at Major Mackenzie Drive, 16th Avenue and Highway 7 to accommodate greater turning movements.

The retained contractor will submit a final traffic management plan for approval by Town staff (Engineering, Operations and FES), Region of York, MTO, and 407 ETR. Staff will also review the final plan with the Project Liaison Committee and Markham Village BIA.

Parking

With the construction on Main Street (Hwy 7 to Bullock Drive) on street parking cannot be accommodated. This temporarily eliminates approximately 60 of the current available parking spots available on Main Street.

To officially remove the parking spaces for the duration of the project it is required to amend Schedule 'C' of Traffic By-law 2005-188. The required amendment is shown as Attachment 'E' which will also need to be rescinded when the project is completed.

The Markham BIA is working with businesses/property owners in the area to make available surplus private parking to help offset the loss of on-street parking.

The Fire Chief has requested that parking on George and Washington Streets be restricted to provide for alternative emergency routes in the event using Main Street delays their response time. Engineering will investigate this request, review with the PLC as well as the Markham Village BIA, and will report back to the Fire Chief.

In addition, the Sierra Homes development at 68 Main Street anticipates that parking for 50 to a peak of over 300 construction trades, consultants and staff will be required during our July 2012 to November 2013 Main Street construction activities. The Developer will be required to provide an off-site parking arrangement to mitigate parking on the surrounding local road network. The Developer will also be required to submit a parking and traffic management plan for staff review and approval before their construction begins.

Marketing

Staff have been reviewing with the Markham Village BIA opportunities to minimize the impact on Main Street businesses during construction.

The Markham BIA has prepared a draft marketing plan (Attachment "F") which includes;

- Various advertising projects – signs at the back of stores, large flags;
- Media – advertising, etc;
- Relocation of festivals such as the Auto Classic, and Markham Under One Roof;

The BIA has estimated that the draft marketing plan will cost \$30,825.00 + HST to be implemented in 2012 and are requesting financial assistance from Markham. This budget

includes the rental of the Markham Go Transit facility/Town facilities for the Auto Classic and the Under One Roof Festivals which would have been held on Main Street.

Staff have reviewed the draft marketing plan and recommend a maximum contribution of \$30,825.00 + HST towards it, subject to the following terms and conditions:

- The final marketing plan is subject to input and endorsement from the two local Councillors and Corporate Communications.
- The Markham Village BIA is solely responsible for the implementation of the final plan.
- Reimbursement of costs shall be upon submission of invoices to the Town from the Markham Village BIA and its sub-contractors.
- The Markham Village BIA staff costs are not eligible for reimbursement.
- Town costs to assist the BIA in implementing the marketing plan (preparation of signs, installation, and removal) will be included under the marketing plan costs.

Robinson Street Bridge Rehabilitation

Engineering staff have been advised by Asset Management staff that the Robinson Street Bridge west of Main Street Markham (Attachment "D") was identified as structurally deficient in 2009, and was scheduled for major rehabilitation in 2011 but was rescheduled to 2012 due to outstanding Ministry of Natural Resources(MNR) approval.

This work will necessitate closure of Robinson Street at the bridge for through vehicular traffic from July to September 2012 during the permitted in-water construction window. Pedestrian traffic will be permitted to cross the bridge at all times.

The Markham Village BIA has raised concern about two road closures at the same time (Main Street Markham and Robinson Street) and the impact that the Robinson Street closure will have.

As a result, Asset Management staff retained a structural engineering consultant, "Morrison Hershfield" to carry out a peer review on the condition assessment of the existing bridge to determine whether the bridge rehabilitation could be deferred to 2014 after the Main Street Markham reconstruction works are complete. The structural condition analysis indicates that the bridge rehabilitation should be carried out this year (2012) as the bridge does not meet the current bridge design codes and is not suitable to carry the current vehicular loading. Asset Management staff therefore recommend that the Robinson Street bridge rehabilitation be carried out in 2012 as planned due to public safety. Asset Management staff are working with the MNR to secure the work permit.

The Traffic Operations section has advised that Robinson Street accommodates approximately 3500 vehicles in a 24 hour period and 400 trips in the AM/PM peak period. This traffic which is expected to be largely local residents can be accommodated by the existing road network west of Main Street and particularly Bullock Drive, Highway 7 and Laidlaw Blvd.

Communication Plan

In addition to 2 PLC meetings and 2 BIA meetings, a Public Meeting was held on March 22 to present the underground works to be done, the draft construction schedule, lane closures as well as a proposed Traffic Management Plan.

The meeting was well attended with over 60 residents/business owner's attending and the meeting was overall very positive.

Some of the issues that were raised at the meeting include:

- Need to encourage more people to use the Donald Cousens Parkway;
- Consider 2 way traffic on adjacent one way streets during the construction period;
- Further work required to finalize the Traffic Management Plan;
- Restrict parking on side streets;(George Street, Washington Street)
- Close ramp from Highway 407 at Main Street;
- Encouraged that the vision for Main Street is being implemented;

At the next PLC meeting scheduled for April/May 2012, a draft communication plan related to the underground construction works scheduled for this summer will be presented by staff for comments.

The draft communication plan will include;

- Public notices – Economist and Sun, Other newsprint as appropriate
- Construction notices - General public
 - Business
 - Property owners
- Town website for Main Street Markham information
(<http://mainstreetmarkhamreconstruction.ca>)
- Electronic boards
- Contact numbers – Staff
 - Consultant
 - Contractor

Staff will finalize the communication plan with the local Councillors, Corporate Communications and the Markham Village BIA for implementation during the construction period.

Next Steps

Subject to Council's approval of the recommendations of this report the timelines for Phase 1 are as follows;

- Pre-qualifications of contractors – completed;
- Tender documents to be issued late March / early April;
- Tender closing late April 2012;
- Tender award report to DSC in late May 2012

- Contractor mobilization – June 2012
- Construction start – early July 2012
- Completion of undergrounding works – November 19, 2012

Phase 2 which is the reconstruction of a 2 lane road with parking bays and streetscaping will commence in the spring of 2013 and be completed by November 2013, subject to funding approval.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The \$30,825.00 + HST allowance for the 2012 Marketing Plan is to be funded from engineering capital account 083-5350-12048-005.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

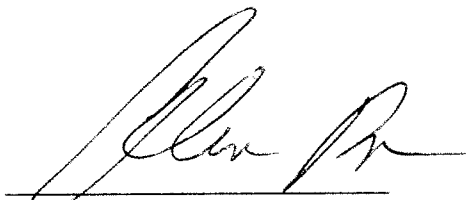
The reconstruction of Main Street Markham from Highway 7 to 16th Avenue has long been contemplated as a strategic priority. The project provides the necessary upgrades to the existing infrastructure, and the opportunity to enhance the existing streetscape, to promote pedestrian traffic, improve the public realm, and showcase this heritage area.

This project is in line with the Town of Markham's strategic focus relating to Growth Management, Transportation/Transit, Safety, the Environment and Municipal Services.

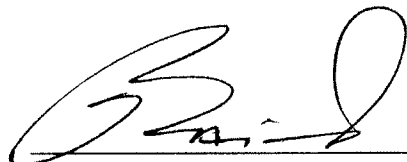
BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

Asset Management, Operations, Corporate Communications, Markham Fire Department and Finance Departments have reviewed and commented on this report.

RECOMMENDED BY:



Alan Brown, C.E.T.
Director of Engineering



Jim Baird, M.C.I.P., R.P.P.
Commissioner, Development Services

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachments "A1, A2, A3" – Draft Construction Staging and Schedule
- Attachment "B1, B2, B3" – Road Closure Pictures
- Attachment "C" – Draft Traffic Management Plan
- Attachment "D" – Robinson Street Bridge Location
- Attachment "E" – Parking By-Law Amendment implemented
- Attachment "F" – BIA Draft Marketing Concept