

Subject: Transportation Master Plan 2024 - Adoption

Staff Report No. EPW-013-24

Commission: Engineering and Public Works Commission

Date: June 5, 2024

Recommendation:

- 1) That Council approve the 2024 Transportation Master Plan as provided in Attachments 1 through 6; and
- 2) That Council authorize Staff to take necessary steps to implement the 2024 Transportation Master Plan including updates to the Town's Official Plan, Applicable Secondary Plans, and the Development Charge By-law.

1. Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of the Town of Stouffville's Transportation Master Plan 2024.

2. Executive Summary:

The Town of Stouffville is required to update the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) to meet the traffic needs of the population projected for 2051. The TMP is also mandated to meet new policies and housing targets provided by the Province and to support residential, as well as employment growth within the Town. The TMP also supports other Town policy documents such as the Official Plan, Development Charges Background Study, Capital Plans and provides guidance on budgeting. The TMP was carried out as per Municipal Class EA requirements and meets A and A+ schedules. The current TMP proposes a combination of new road infrastructure, road widening and improvements, active transportation components like bike paths, sidewalks, trails, transit improvements, Travel Demand Management, and studies.

3. Background:

The Town's Transportation Master Plan (TMP) is a strategic and long-term transportation planning document that aligns with the provincial, regional and local municipal policies. The current TMP is an update to revise the previous 2017 TMP and reflect the changes in transportation planning context to address new population and employment projections until year 2051. This plan acts as a crucial instrument for directing the Town's expansion, aligning with housing targets set by Provincial and Regional authorities.

3.1 Previous Council Reports

The Town issued a Request for Proposal WS-RFP-21-55 for qualified consulting firms to submit proposals, which closed on September 10, 2021. A total of three proposals were received and reviewed by a staff review panel. The consultant group with the highest evaluation score that was recommended by staff was HDR Corporation. On December 7, 2021, Council adopted staff recommendation to award the TMP contract to HDR Corporation in the amount of \$198,810.00. (DS-051-21).

On December 6, 2023, Council received a report titled "Endorsement of Draft 2022 Transportation Master Plan" for endorsement of the Plan following a 30-day public consultation period. (PW-023-23).

This report represents the final stage in the project seeking Council approval of the 2024 Transportation Master Plan as presented in Attachment No. 2.

3.2 Master Plan Process

The Master Plan process began in 2022 was carried out under Approach #1 as set out in the Municipal Class EA. The Master Plan documents were made available for public and agency comments prior to being approved by the Town. The study has incorporated essence from the Town's Official Plan, York Region's Transportation Master Plan, and the 2018 Whitchurch-Stouffville Active Transportation Servicing Plan.

3.3 Public Consultation

The public consultation process was a key component of the study. It involved two Public Information Centres (PICs) and a study website. The PICs presented the work completed to date, the draft recommendations, and obtained feedback from the public. The PICs were held virtually with presentation and participant survey/questionnaires at crucial points. This feedback was instrumental in shaping the final recommendations of the TMP.

The public consultation process included the following:

- Notice of Study Commencement on May 19, 2022
- An online survey was conducted from May 31 to June 21, 2022.
- The first virtual Public Information Centre was held on June 14, 2022, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

- The second virtual Public Information Centre was held on December 8, 2022, from 7:00 to 8:00 pm.
- Notice of Study Completion was issued on January 3, 2024, with the commenting period ending on February 19, 2024.
- The outcomes of the public consultation process are outlined in Attachment 3 of the Report.

3.4 Transportation Strategy

The outcome of the analysis of the existing conditions was a comprehensive assessment of the current and future transportation needs and challenges in the Town of Stouffville. The findings of Background Traffic Conditions and Future Traffic Conditions are summarized in Attachment 4 and Attachment 5 of the Report.

The analysis identified the following key findings:

- The Town is expected to grow significantly in population and employment by 2051, which will increase the travel demand and pressure on the transportation system.
- The Town's active transportation network is incomplete and lacks continuity and accessibility, especially for cycling and walking.
- The Town's transit service is limited and does not meet the current and future needs of the residents, especially for local and regional trips.

The Master Plan evaluated four different alternatives and the Multi-Modal Approach was identified as the best option, addressing future transportation needs and public comments.

The Multi-Modal Approach alternative included:

- Road network improvements, such as widening, realigning, jog eliminating, extending, or adding new roads, intersections, and interchanges.
- Active transportation enhancements, such as adding or improving sidewalks, trails, bike lanes, and crossings.
- Transit service improvements, such as increasing frequency, coverage, and integration of GO Transit and York Region Transit.
- Transportation demand management (TDM) strategies, such as promoting carpooling, telecommuting, and flexible work hours.

The preferred solutions were selected based on a multi-criteria evaluation that considered the impacts and benefits of the alternative solutions on various factors, such as transportation performance, land use compatibility, environmental and social effects, and financial.

4. Analysis and Options:

The TMP projects are categorized by their source, location, type, class, jurisdiction, timing, cross-section, length, and cost. Following are the key findings of the Transportation Master Plan, including infrastructure improvements, associated studies and recommended timings:

- Road Construction projects (10);
- Multiuse Pathway in Boulevard projects (11);
- Bicycle Route projects (78);
- Off Road Multi-Use Trails projects (25);
- Illumination projects (10);
- Sidewalk projects (71);
- Creek Crossing bridge (both vehicular and pedestrian bridges) (10);
- Signal and Intersection Improvements projects (8) and;
- Studies to support future growth and projects (12).

The summarized projects above include 199 projects to be completed by the Town, 26 by the Region and 10 by the Province. The development limits, timing and costing of the projects are included in Attachment 6 of this report and Appendix D of the Master Plan. It is recommended that staff take the necessary steps to implement Master Plan projects and support the Town's Official Plan, Secondary Plans and the Development Charge By-law. These projects have been included in the approved Development Charge Background Study, ensuring that sufficient funds are being collected to cover the cost of growth-related initiatives.

Town staff recommend that Council adopt the 2024 Transportation Master Plan as included in Attachment 1 and all associated Appendices.

5. Financial Implications:

The total estimated cost of the total 235 projects as identified in the Transportation Master Plan is approximately \$197M (2023), excluding HST. The Town's share of the cost for 199 projects is \$150M (2023), excluding HST. Road jog elimination projects at Bethesda Road and Ninth Line as well as at Main Street and Tenth Line include property acquisition costs. All projects are categorized into short, medium and long-term timeframes. Detailed costs of the transportation improvement projects can be found in Attachment 6 (Appendix D of TMP). Each of the capital projects as suggested in this master plan will be brought forward annually for consideration in the Town's Capital Budget.

The following table is a summary of the projects based on jurisdiction and based the short, medium and long-term time horizons:

Timing	No. of Projects	Town	Region	Province	Total
Short Term (1-10 years)	194	\$ 100,573,220	\$ 14,993,626	\$ 6,580,249	\$ 122,147,095
Medium Term (11-20 years)	39	\$ 33,944,239	\$ 12,955,772	\$ 3,532,278	\$ 50,432,289
Long Term (21 -30 years)	2	\$ 24,475,613	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,475,613
Subtotal:	235	\$ 158,993,072	\$ 27,949,398	\$ 10,112,527	\$ 197,054,997

6. Alignment with Strategic Plan:

1. A Town that Grows
A Town that grows in support of complete communities
2. A Healthy and Greener Town
Increase Offerings and Opportunities for Active Living
3. An Engaging Town
Increase Community Engagement & Outreach
4. Good Governance
Provide Good Governance
5. Organizational Effectiveness
To Elevate our Organizational Effectiveness

7. Attachments:

1. Attachment 1 - Whitchurch-Stouffville Transportation Master Plan Update
Final Report - Executive Summary
2. Attachment 2 - Whitchurch-Stouffville Transportation Master Plan Update
Final Report
3. Attachment 3 - Appendix A - Public Consultation
4. Attachment 4 - Appendix B - Background Conditions Report
5. Attachment 5 - Appendix C - Future Traffic Conditions
6. Attachment 6 - Appendix D - Recommended Improvements, Timing, Cost

8. Related Reports:

December 7, 2021 – DS-051-21 Contract Award WS-RFP-21-55, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Transportation Master Plan

December 6, 2023 – PW-023-23 Endorsement of Daft 2022 Transportation Master Plan

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