

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE JUNE 2, 2003

JOINT STUDY, MARKHAM/VAUGHAN/THORNHILL MAIN STREET STUDY (YONGE STREET)

Recommendation

Ward 5 Councillor Susan Kadis recommends:

1. THAT the City of Vaughan provide additional financial support for the "Thornhill Main Street Study", (Yonge Street) in the amount of \$10,000, and
2. THAT this amount be provided from funds currently available in the Community Planning Department 2003 budget."

Purpose

The purpose of this joint study with the Town of Markham is to establish guidelines that can be implemented by both municipalities to strengthen the sense of place and improve the physical attractiveness of the Yonge Street corridor within the Thornhill Community. Because of unforeseen additional work required to co-ordinate this study with the York Region Rapid Transit Plan (YRTP) Yonge Street Transitway Environmental Assessment (EA) Study Program, additional funding is required to complete this study.

Background

On June 24, 2002 City of Vaughan Council approve the City's participation, both financially and with staff support, in a joint study with the Town of Markham to carry out main street study for the Yonge Street corridor between Centre Street and Arnold Avenue.

This study is currently in progress. It will:

1. Assess the Thornhill community's expectations for the Yonge Street corridor through a workshop process
2. Establish a coordinated urban design vision for the Yonge Street corridor in Markham and Vaughan, having regard for existing Official Plan and Secondary Plan design policies and guidelines and the Thornhill Heritage Conservation District Plan
3. Assess the retail and commercial characteristics, trends and opportunities for the study area and identify strategies to strengthen and enhance retail and commercial uses within the study area
4. Make recommendations for amendments to established policy and guidelines in each municipality that may be required to achieve the urban design vision
5. Establish a coordinated streetscape improvement strategy for the study area
6. Recommend an implementation and phasing strategy for the proposed streetscape improvements

Initially, the Town of Markham approved \$30,000 for the Markham portion of the budget while the City of Vaughan contributed \$20,000. Once underway it became apparent that it would be essential to co-ordinate and work with the York Rapid Transit Plan EA study consultants to ensure that the City and the Town's streetscape objectives were met through the appropriate design of the Yonge Street Transitway. In turn, YRTP staff welcomed input from the joint study team. As a result of this unexpected additional detailed work an additional amount of \$20,000 is required to complete the study. The Town of Markham has agreed to contribute \$10,000. This is to request that a similar amount be provided from the City of Vaughan. There are sufficient funds in the Community Planning budget to accommodate this request.

Conclusion

Based upon the above, it is concluded that the City of Vaughan should continue to participate with the Town of Markham in the Thornhill Main Street Study (Yonge Street) by contributing an additional \$10,000 to offset the unanticipated work related to the Yonge Street Transitway. Funds for this purpose are available in the Community Planning Department 2003 budget.

Report prepared by:

Councillor Susan Kadis

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Kadis
Councillor, Ward 5