

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - APRIL 19, 2004

ROAD RESURFACING OAKBANK-THORNBANK COMMUNITY INFORMATION REPORT

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends:

1. That this report be received for information; and
2. That the road reconstruction within the Oakbank – Thornbank community of Thornhill be deferred to a future year within the Council approved current 5-year road reconstruction program, in order to allow for sanitary servicing to proceed to completion in the interim.

Purpose

To provide the results of the community meeting held January 28, 2004 as directed by Council, in Item 12, Report No. 66, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted as amended by the Council of the City of Vaughan on September 22, 2003.

Background - Analysis and Options

Item 12, Report No. 66 of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted, as amended, by Council on September 22, 2003 outlined the five year Roads Program for road resurfacing, road reconstruction and rural road upgrades. Council further recommended:

“That staff be directed to hold a community meeting in early January 2004 with the residents of Elmbank Avenue, Oakbank Road, Erica Road and Thornbank Road area of Thornhill to determine if they wish to construct sanitary sewers, at the cost of the benefiting property owners, for those properties where sanitary sewers have not yet been constructed, in order to complete the servicing of the area and provide for the reconstruction of the roads in the area.”

Roads within the Oakbank-Thornbank community being; Elmbank Road, Thornbank Road, Oakbank Road and Erica Road were identified as being in poor condition in the City's Road Needs Study, however reconstruction dates were deferred due to sanitary sewer servicing issues.

Council directed staff to hold a community meeting in early January, 2004 to determine if the residents wished to construct the sanitary sewers and/or the lateral connections at the expense of the benefiting property owners, for those properties where sanitary sewers and/or the lateral connections have not yet been constructed. The intent of this would be to complete the servicing of the area prior to or in conjunction with reconstructing the roads.

Staff formulated four options to complete the servicing of the Oakbank-Thornbank community, as described in the table below. A community meeting was held on January 26, 2004 to provide residents with an opportunity to view and discuss these options with staff. Residents representing nine properties attended the public meeting held at the Garnet Williams Community Centre. A copy of the information package provided at the community meeting was also hand-delivered to residents that were unable to attend the community meeting. All residents were invited to participate in a survey indicating their preferred option.

The City received 14 responses out of the 30 affected residents, the results of which are summarized below:

Option No.	Description of Option	Results
1	City Initiative - City of Vaughan enacts a By-Law and constructs the sewer extensions and lateral connections. City recovers costs in accordance with Ontario Municipal Act, S.O. 2001 c.25, Sections 326(1) and (4) and 312(4) as amended.	3
2	Resident Initiative - Oakbank–Thornbank benefiting property Owners voluntarily share costs for sewer extensions and service connections.	0
3	Reconstruct road only. And do not complete sanitary sewer extensions and servicing.	4
4	Do Nothing. Leave all underground services and roads in the current condition.	7
Total		14

Results of the public meeting indicate that the majority of the respondents prefer to leave the underground services and roads in their current uncompleted condition (Option 4) for now.

Staff can accommodate the residents' request by deferring the reconstruction of Thornbank Road, Oakbank Road, Erica Road and Elmbank Road to a future year **within** the 5-year road reconstruction program and still meet the recommendations contained in the Road Needs study.

At this time only 30 of the 91 area lots remain unserved by sanitary sewers. Infill building activity and renovations are progressing well with nine of the 30 lots requiring sanitary sewer extensions in addition to lateral connections, to fulfill the area servicing requirements.

To meet the recommendations contained in the Road Needs Study, the area roads could be reconstructed to base asphalt only, by 2008. This would allow time for possible completion of any outstanding sanitary servicing in the interim through ongoing redevelopment activity in the area. Roadwork could still proceed with the placement of top lift asphalt deferred an additional two to three years after the initial road reconstruction.

Funding for this future road reconstruction project, would be provided from general taxation as approved by Council in the respective year of construction.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This project is consistent with Vaughan Vision 2007 in that the reconstruction of Thornbank Road, Oakbank Road, Erica Road and Elmbank Road have been identified in the five year Roads Program for road resurfacing, road reconstruction, and rural road upgrades, and as such the reconstruction implements improvements to existing City Facilities (1.1.4)

Conclusion

This report has been brought forward to inform Council of the findings from the community meeting of January 28, 2004 regarding to the completion of the sanitary sewers in the Oakbank-Thornbank community and to provide Council with information relating to the future reconstruction of Thornbank Road, Oakbank Road, Erica Road and Elmbank Road in accordance with the Road Needs study.

Attachments

1. Location Map.

Report prepared by:

Larry B. Hollett, C.E.T. – Senior Engineering Assistant, ext. 3112
Tom Ungar, P. Eng. – Design Engineer, ext. 3110

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Robinson, P. Eng.
Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works

Gary P. Carroll, P. Eng.
Director of Engineering Services

LH:

ATTACHMENT No. 1

