

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – JUNE 21, 2004**

### **VAUGHAN CORPORATE CENTRE – LINKS 4 AND 5 CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND PRELIMINARY DESIGN REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

#### **Recommendation**

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works, in consultation with the Director of Reserves and Investments, recommends:

That Staff be authorized to seek proposals from qualified consulting engineering firms to carry out the Environmental Assessment and preliminary design work for the construction of Links 4 and 5 within the Vaughan Corporate Centre.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to seek direction from Council to commence proceedings to seek proposals from qualified consulting engineering firms to carry out the Environmental Assessment and preliminary design work for the construction of Links 4 and 5 within the Vaughan Corporate Centre as identified in Attachment No. 1.

#### **Background - Analysis and Options**

The Vaughan Corporate Centre (VCC) Secondary Plan was approved, with modifications, at the Municipal Board on March 5, 1998, as OPA No. 500, which established the policies to guide the City of Vaughan in its consideration of development applications within the VCC Secondary Plan Area. Subsequently, OPA No. 500 was amended, through the approval of OPA No. 528, which identifies and incorporates into OPA No. 500, road network improvements and provides supporting policies relating to the road network and road network improvements and OPA No. 529, which identifies and secures a higher order rapid transit right of way from York University to the VCC.

The preparation of OPA No. 500 was supported by a transportation study prepared by the firm McCormick Rankin Corporation. The study recognized that the arterial road network for the area was largely in place and that opportunities to expand the system were limited. As such, increasing traffic congestion, as the Corporate Centre matures was a certainty.

To address the emerging issues of road capacity and congestion, it was considered necessary to conduct a study that would address these problems through the addition of a number of improvements to the existing system. This initiative became the Vaughan Corporate Centre Node Transportation/Transit Planning & Functional Design Study. Cansult Limited was retained by the City to undertake the aforementioned study that became an integral part of OPA No. 528.

Links 4 and 5 have been identified as critical to accommodating the projected traffic volumes by providing linkages to Highway 400 and Applewood Crescent, thereby alleviating traffic congestion on Highway 7. Refer to Attachment No. 1. In order to implement these improvements a Class Environmental Assessment is required.

Since the undertaking of a Class Environmental Assessment can take some time to complete, it is appropriate to commence the study now to ensure that development is not unduly delayed. Accordingly, it is recommended that Staff seek proposals from three qualified consulting engineering firms with experience in this type of work. Staff will evaluate the submitted proposals and report to a future Committee of the Whole meeting with a recommendation on the selection of a qualified consulting engineering firm.

The Environmental Assessment will determine the preferred means of constructing Links 4 and 5 and the estimated construction cost of the works. The estimated Environmental Assessment, detailed design, construction costs and land acquisition costs have been included in the City of Vaughan's current Development Charges Background Study as a City-wide development charges By-law project. Funding for the recommended Environmental Assessment and preliminary design phase of the project, estimated at \$146,000, will be charged to Project #1539-0-04 in the 2004 Capital Budget. A financial contribution from the Region of York will also be available for this project.

### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007**

This undertaking is consistent with Vaughan's Vision of a new downtown area in the "Vaughan Corporate Centre" and with Vaughan Vision 3.2.3 to ensure growth does not outpace the road network infrastructure.

This report is consistent with the priorities set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

### **Conclusion**

Links 4 and 5 have been identified as critical to accommodating the projected traffic volumes by providing linkages to Highway 400 and Applewood Crescent, thereby alleviating traffic congestion on Highway 7. Accordingly, it is recommended that Vaughan Council pass a resolution authorizing Staff to seek proposals from qualified consulting engineering firms to carry out this Environmental Assessment and preliminary design work.

### **Attachments**

1. Location Map

### **Report prepared by**

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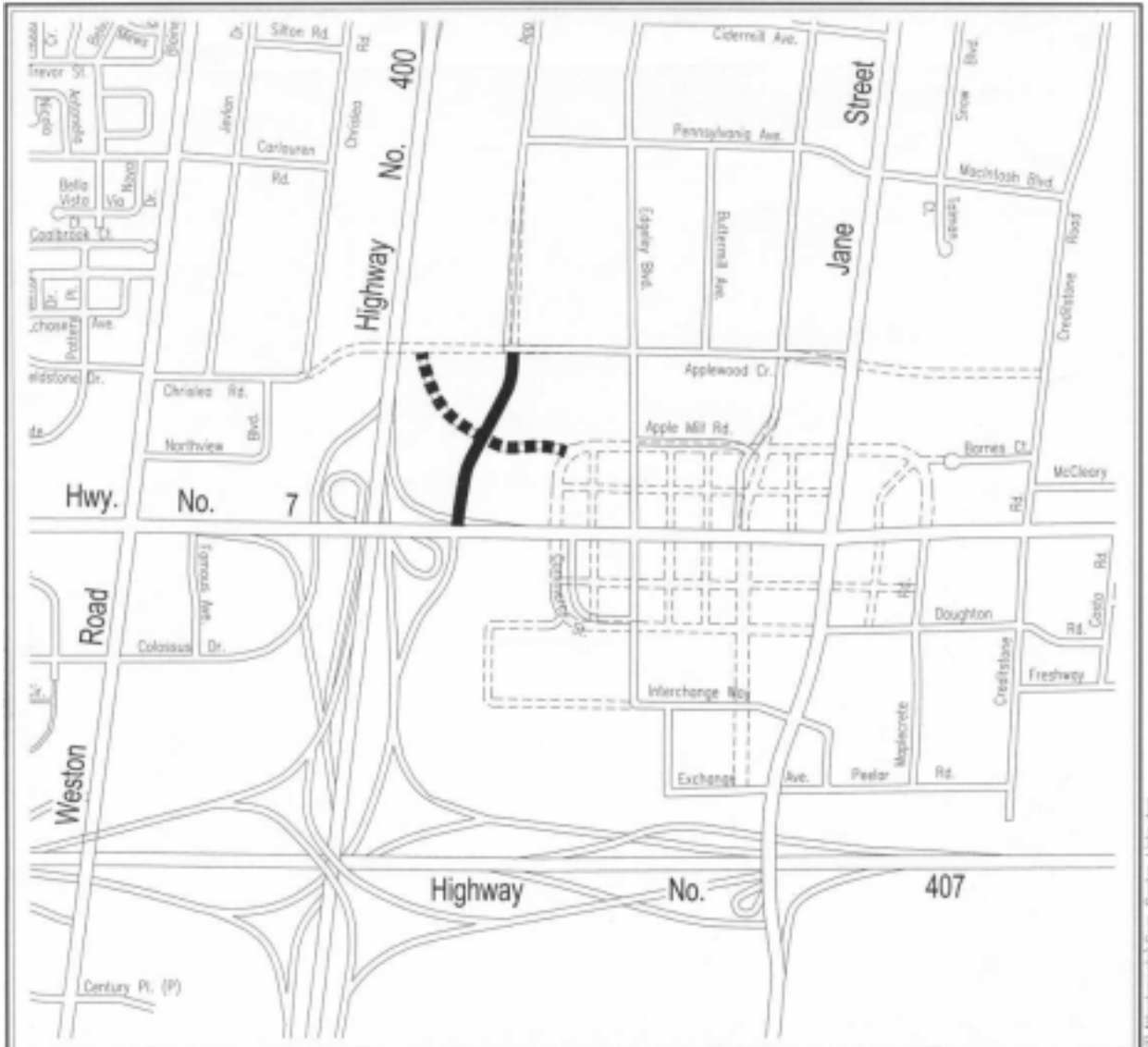
Respectfully submitted,

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

MD/MF

Michael Won, P. Eng.  
Director of Development/Transportation  
Engineering

# ATTACHMENT No. 1



## VAUGHAN CORPORATE CENTRE LINKS 4 & 5

LOCATION : Part of Lots 4 to 7,  
Concessions 4 & 5

### LEGEND

-  LINK 4
-  LINK 5



NOT TO SCALE