

CITY OF VAUGHAN

**EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 26, 2012**

Item 1, Report No. 4, of the Priorities and Key Initiatives Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 26, 2012.

**1 TORONTO-YORK SPADINA SUBWAY EXTENSION  
PROGRESS UPDATE  
WARD 4**

**The Priorities and Key Initiatives Committee recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works, dated June 11, 2012:**

**Recommendation**

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends that this report be received for information purposes.

**Contribution to Sustainability**

The Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension (TYSSE) project will provide higher order transit infrastructure to support compact urban form and offer an alternative mode of transportation to the single occupant vehicle. In addition, the subway extension into the City will stimulate the establishment of transit orientated development in the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre and the Official Plan Amendment 620 (Steeles West Secondary Plan) area. The YYSSE is committed to applying sustainability standards in the design and construction of the subway project.

**Economic Impact**

There are no immediate economic impacts associated with the recommendations of this report.

**Communications Plan**

TYSSE and York Region will continue their communication efforts while construction advances to keep the public and stakeholders informed. The following communication plan will be used to ensure the public is fully aware of the current and upcoming construction activities associated with both the YYSSE and VivaNext projects:

- Printed advertisements in local/regional newspapers and newsletters;
- Radio and television reports via traffic reporters;
- Bi-annual project newsletters and quarterly VivaNext newsletters;
- On-street project signs showing the station design and a 1-800 construction information line for all public enquiries;
- Construction notices sent by email, social media, mail and posted on the project and City websites;
- Construction Community Liaisons and Project Information Centres for the public to learn more about the project and to make enquiries; and
- Direct communication with affected property owners and tenants.

In addition, media events will be hosted and communication issued to celebrate milestones of the project, including the launch of the tunnel boring machines, completion of the first leg of the tunnel boring, quarterly construction completion targets reached and grand opening event of the subway extension.

The City's Economic Development, Corporate Communication and Development/Transportation Engineering Departments are assisting and coordinating with the YYSSE project team on this communication plan.

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#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the progress of the Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension project.

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

The Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension (TYSSE) project is an 8.6km extension from the existing Downsview Station northwest through York University within the City of Toronto and north to the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre as shown on Attachment No 1. The TYSSE is scheduled to open for full revenue service to the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre (VMC) by the end of 2015.

The TYSSE project is now in the construction phase. The overall project is on schedule. Any schedule challenges encountered to date have been managed by the project team. The following provides a brief overview of the progress of the project's key components and the upcoming activities expected over the summer.

#### ***Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Station***

The site plan for the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre (VMC) Station was conditionally approved by Council on May 24, 2011. The construction contract for the VMC Subway Station was awarded in mid-June 2011 and heavy civil construction of the station is well underway.

The current status of the works is as follows:

- Construction of excavation support walls north and south of Hwy 7 are more than 80% complete
- One tower crane has been installed north of Hwy 7 for station construction
- Dewatering operation has commenced to lower water table for the station construction
- New sanitary and storm sewers are being installed in the new Millway Ave right of way

A current aerial photo of the VMC Station site is included as Attachment No.2 to this report.

The upcoming activities at the VMC Station site are as follows:

- A second tower crane is planned to be installed north of Hwy 7 this summer
- Excavation for the station box will continue throughout the summer as well as construction of the excavation support walls in the Toromont Yard
- Detouring of Highway 7 to the south side for the purpose of installing the excavation support walls within the Highway 7 right-of-way
- Construction of a dewatering holding facility for maintenance dewatering on the south side of Portage Pkwy

The parties continue to negotiate the arrangements for the VMC YRT bus terminal, underground pedestrian tunnel, Pick-up and Drop-off facility. These facilities will be included as part of a future site plan application, which should be submitted in late 2012 or early 2013.

The H2-VMC Viva Bus Rapidway Project along Highway 7 is in the tender stage, which should be completed in early June 2012. The award of the design/build contract is anticipated for late July 2012, with design work commencing shortly afterwards in August 2012. The necessary utility relocations associated with the project are expected to start in late 2012 or early 2013. Construction of the H2-VMC Viva Bus Rapidway Project along Highway 7 is expected to start in spring of 2013.

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##### ***Highway 407 Station***

The site plan for the Highway 407 Station was approved in 2010 and construction of the advanced contract, which included the realignment of the Black Creek, new 6 lane access bridge and the relocation of the existing sanitary trunk sewer, was substantially completed in 2011. A recent aerial photo of the Highway 407 Station site is included as Attachment No. 2 to this report.

The current status of the works at the Highway 407 Station is as follows:

- Station excavation is ongoing, including TBM launch shaft, and will continue through this year
- Station contractor has commenced pre-loading of ground, to minimize settlement, for the main bus terminal structure
- Station Access Road and bridge over Black Creek is complete and new signals have been installed at the intersection with Jane Street

A current aerial photo of the Highway 407 Station site is included as Attachment No.3 to this report.

##### ***Steeles West Station***

In October 2011, Council approved the first phase site plan application for the Steeles West Station, which included the underground subway box, the main station entrance and the electrical substation. The York Region Transit (YRT) bus terminal, commuter parking lot, the passenger pick-up/drop-off (PPUDO) and the associated roadways will be included in the second phase site plan submission, which is expected to be submitted in the fall 2012.

The current status of the works at the Steeles West Station is as follows:

- Station excavation is proceeding north of Steeles Avenue
- Utility relocations are proceeding, including the realignment of Vaughan utilities in the Steeles Avenue ROW
- Road diversions and lane closures are in place to facilitate construction

Some of the upcoming activities at the Steeles West Station site will include the following:

- Excavation and foundation construction for TTC substation will commence during the summer.
- Station contractor will commence road widening on north portion of Steeles Ave. to accommodate contract staging
- Station construction to proceed south of Steeles Avenue

A current aerial photo of the Steeles West Station site is included as Attachment No.4 to this report.

##### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020**

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, the recommendations of this report will assist in:

- The pursuit of excellence in service delivery;
- Planning and managing growth, and economic vitality; and
- The demonstration of leadership and promotion of effective governance.

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Specific Strategic Plan Initiatives applicable to the recommendations made in this report include Vaughan's corporate priorities to support and plan high capacity transit at strategic locations throughout the City. Accordingly, this report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council.

#### **Regional Implications**

The Region of York is a partner in the Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension project.

#### **Conclusion**

Heavy civil construction associated with the three TYSSE subway stations in Vaughan is now well underway. The overall project is on schedule. Tunneling in Vaughan is anticipated to commence in 2013 from the Highway 407 Station.

#### **Attachments**

- Attachment 1: Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension Location Plan
- Attachment 2: VMC Station (Highway 7/Millway) – Current Aerial
- Attachment 3: Highway 407 Station – Current Aerial
- Attachment 4: Steeles West Station – Current Aerial

#### **Report prepared by:**

Andrew Pearce, Director of Development & Transportation Engineering, Ext 8255

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)

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Item 2, Report No. 4, of the Priorities and Key Initiatives Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 26, 2012.

## 2 **GREEN DIRECTIONS VAUGHAN COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE**

The Priorities and Key Initiatives Committee recommends:

- 1) That the recommendation contained in the following report of the City Manager and Manager of Environmental Sustainability, dated June 11, 2012, be approved; and
- 2) That the presentation by the Manager of Environmental Sustainability and Communication C2, PowerPoint Presentation entitled "Green Directions Vaughan Indicators Discussion", dated June 11, 2012, be received.

### Recommendation

The City Manager and Manager of Environmental Sustainability in consultation with the Senior Management Team recommend:

1. That Attachment 1, outlining progress to date in implementing the actions prescribed in Green Directions Vaughan be received for information purposes; and,
2. That a presentation on community sustainability and environmental indicators be received for input and discussion and that staff report back on a set of indicators for *Green Directions Vaughan*; and,
3. That Council provide a letter of support to the Canadian District Energy Association and its partners who are working to raise the importance of integrated community energy systems, including district energy, with the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

### Contribution to Sustainability

Objective 6.1 of *Green Directions*, "To fully support the implementation of Green Directions at all levels of City operations", provides under Action 6.1.6 that, an annual report to the Environment Committee be prepared on the status of existing programs and accomplishments for the purpose of monitoring the implementation of the plan. This web based report will provide a status update on implementation of the community sustainability and environmental master plan.

### Economic Impact

There will be no economic impact resulting from the adoption of this report.

### Communications Plan

Following the third year of implementation of *Green Directions Vaughan* it would be appropriate to issue a News Release and a website posting highlighting this milestone. This is consistent with Goal 5 of *Green Directions Vaughan*, "To be leaders in advocacy and education on sustainability issues", where "Vaughan is committed to sharing its successes with the community. . ." Staff will prepare a News Release and a website posting of the highlights of the staff report to illustrate some of the major advances the City has made in implementing *Green Directions Vaughan*.

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#### Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the Priorities and Key Initiatives Committee with an update on the implementation of the *Green Directions Vaughan*.

#### Background - Analysis and Options

##### Background

In April 2009 Council approved the *Green Directions Vaughan*, our Community Sustainability and Environmental Master Plan. As the City's sustainability plan, *Green Directions* contains a set of recommended actions that address the range of municipal responsibilities including both operational and regulatory functions. It also serves as the City's Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP). The ICSP is a long-term plan designed to guide the community toward a more sustainable future by addressing environmental, cultural, social and economic issues.

On May 25, 2010, a report was received on the implementation of *Green Directions Vaughan* following the first anniversary of its approval. The report highlighted the status of existing programs, key accomplishments, new initiatives and further opportunities for the purposes of monitoring the implementation of the plan. The primary focus of the report was directed to projects that are identified in the 2009-10 timeframe or those that were targeted as "on-going".

On April 5, 2011, a report was ratified by Council on the implementation of *Green Directions Vaughan* following the second anniversary of its approval. A media release and web based report highlighting specific actions under each of the six goal areas were generated as a result of the report recommendations.

*Green Directions* establishes a definition of "sustainability", an "environmental ethic" and a set of "principles" to guide the implementation of the plan. The definition of sustainability reflects the breadth of municipal responsibilities, where, "Sustainability means we make decisions and take actions that ensure a healthy environment, vibrant communities and economic vitality for current and future generations."

The plan identifies six categories that classify Vaughan's functions. These are further broken down into goals, objectives and a series of actions, which describe how each of the goals can be achieved. The categories and goals include:

##### What We Use:

Goal 1: To significantly reduce our use of natural resources and the amount of waste we generate.

##### How and Where we Grow:

Goal 2: To ensure sustainable development and redevelopment.

##### How We Get Around:

Goal 3: To ensure that Vaughan is a city that is easy to get around with low environmental impact.

##### How We Live:

Goal 4: To create a vibrant community where citizens, businesses and visitors thrive.

##### How we Lead:

Goal 5: To be leaders in advocacy and education on sustainability issues.

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##### How we Operate:

Goal 6: To ensure a supportive system for the implementation of *Green Directions*.

The objectives are more specific statements of the general goals and they describe how the goals will be achieved. Each of the goals has multiple objectives. The actions refer to tasks that need to be undertaken to achieve the prescribed objective. There can be multiple actions attached to each objective. Actions are assigned to a Commission for implementation within a specific timeframe.

##### Report format

A significant portion of the success of *Green Directions Vaughan* will depend on the internal operations and functions that support its implementation. In order to monitor the implementation of the plan, action 6.1.6 indicates that the City should prepare an annual report addressing, among other things:

- The status of existing programs
- New Initiatives
- Accomplishments
- Further opportunities.

Continuing with the approach established with the previous reports, this report will focus on the measures taken to date to implement the plan's action items. As a result, this report will focus predominantly on the action items that have been implemented, planned within the initial timeframe of the plan or classified as ongoing.

As of March 2012, over 94 % of the eighty five actions outlined in *Green Directions Vaughan* have been initiated. Fourteen of the forty-four action items which have established time frames are completed. This represents a positive improvement from the previous year when 90 % of the actions were initiated and six of the forty-four action items which have established time frames were completed.

Attachment No.1 is based on the section within *Green Directions* that summarizes actions for each action item; the Goals, Objectives, Time Frames and Project Responsibility have been noted. A final column summarizes the update for each action item as of March 2012.

In order to highlight the implementation progress of *Green Directions*, a few initiatives have been selected to report back on. These select projects are currently underway or have been recently completed. These representative projects also correspond to the three main tenets of sustainability; healthy environment, economic vitality and vibrant community. In addition, there is at least one example from each of the six goal areas.

##### Highlights

###### New initiatives/Status of existing programs

- i) Educating stakeholders on sustainability issues by using Vaughan City Hall as a learning centre

Sharing sustainable best practices between and among municipal staff and the community is one component of the goal of leading and advocating on sustainability issues. Action 5.1.3 commits the City to use sustainably constructed facilities such as the Vaughan City Hall as learning centres by providing tours about sustainable construction and energy conservation.

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An on-site tour complete with stand-up banners emphasizing key Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design (LEED) aspects of City Hall was established. To date, over 500 visitors including residents, various associations, international business delegations and other external stakeholders have had tours of City Hall. The tour is complimented by an interactive learning tool hosted on-line.

- ii) Promoting Energy Efficient Building standards for new developments

Objective 2.3 of *Green Directions Vaughan* involves creating a City with a sustainable built form. Growth Action 2.3.5 makes reference to continuing to apply energy efficiency standards to low density, residential new developments.

The City of Vaughan Building Standards Department planned and hosted an educational session for developers, neighboring municipalities and staff on meeting the challenges of SB-12 in the Ontario Building Code. The session, which was conducted in partnership with Home Ratings Ontario, a Natural Resource Canada licensed service organization, focused on the energy efficiency changes in the 2012 Ontario Building Code, what those changes mean and how they affect key stakeholders.

- iii) Support enhanced standards of stormwater management and work with others to care for Vaughan's watersheds

One of the actions under this objective involves assessing the Engineering Department design criteria and strategy for storm drainage and storm water management facilities to manage the anticipated impacts of climate change, be consistent with emerging legislation, and ensure protection from significant flooding.

Significant activity is underway to support this action. The Black Creek Optimization Study Master Plan has been completed allowing for implementation of storm water quality retrofit improvements and erosion restoration projects in conjunction with the development review and approvals process. The follow-up and more detailed Schedule 'C' Class Environmental Assessment (EA) Study is required to facilitate flooding improvements to the existing Black Creek and related road crossings, this study will be completed by Q1 of 2013. The Engineering Design Criteria Review Study is currently underway, anticipated completion is Q1 of 2013. These studies will assist in the development of supportive criteria, policies and programs to augment sustainability initiatives. A climate change sensitivity analysis will also be completed as part of these studies. Staff has recently become part of a Ministry of Natural Resource initiative entitled "Weather-Water Information Gateway". This project will allow local levels of government easier access and sharing of data and information required for critical business functions including flood & drought management, source water protection, water management, and municipal infrastructure management

- iv) Work with Partners to develop and implement a trip reduction/active transportation strategy for the community

Objective 3.3 of *Green Directions Vaughan* makes reference to reducing single occupancy vehicle trips by supporting active transportation, car pooling and public transit. The action under this specific objective involves implementing transportation demand initiatives within the community with various partners.

Travel Demand Management (TDM) is a set of tools to offer people better travel information and opportunities with underlining objective to reduce their need to travel especially by car. TDM uses tools and techniques ranging from land use planning to workplace education.



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New development standards have been implemented requiring Travel Demand Management (TDM) Plans / Programs be submitted in conjunction with high-density site development applications for review and approval by the City. A Vaughan Cycling Forum has been established to inform and promote cycling within communities and to solicit suggestions from avid cyclists throughout the City. Capital budget approval for a TDM Policy Study has been secured for 2012 to further explore local incentives and opportunities to minimize growth in travel demand throughout the City.

The City participated in the Personal Travel Planning pilot project in the later part of 2010 and throughout 2011 coordinated by Region of York's Infrastructure Planning, Planning and Development Services. The Personal Travel Planning (PTP) employs a community based social marketing approach to behaviour change which identifies a key barrier to a desired behaviour and implements a strategy to mitigate that barrier. In this pilot, PTP addressed residents' lack of information about transportation alternatives as a barrier to increased use of sustainable travel modes.

The target area of the pilot in Vaughan was 2,500 households in Thornhill bounded by Yonge, Bathurst and Centre Streets, The results of the pilot in Thornhill showed a 17 percent drop in single occupant vehicle trips and an overall doubling of transit trips attributable to a strong transit infrastructure in the area.

- v) Develop a civic engagement strategy to help citizens become aware of and participate in municipal processes and community Volunteer opportunities.

Objective 4.1 of *Green Directions Vaughan* references the need to foster a city with a strong social cohesion, engaging arts scene and a clear sense of its culture and heritage. Action 4.1.7 targets the social cohesion component by proposing the development of a civic engagement strategy. The City completed a citizen survey in February 2012 to obtain feedback from residents on strategic priorities and City services. Further, a social media policy was adopted by Council on February 21, 2012. This policy and the accompanying communications plan guide City public engagement initiatives using social media. These activities are strongly linked to the 2012-13 strategic initiative on public engagement which references the need for a citizen focused communication initiatives, establishing a more effective model for citizen engagement and enhancing the City's public consultation strategy.

- vi) Implement initiatives to reduce water run-off in park facilities, trail systems, and selected City of Vaughan parking facilities

Objective 2.2.5 makes reference to addressing initiatives to ensure park facilities, trail systems, and selected City of Vaughan parking facilities are constructed to minimize storm water volume levels. This work is continuous & ongoing and is being implemented throughout both new and existing parks. It may include developing permeable paving standards, created wetlands, bio-swales and/or polishing areas.

Initiatives to reduce run-off have been implemented in the following parks:

- Ohr Menachem Park - bioswale in combination with infiltration areas (use of low flow swales and rip rap.planting)
- Freedom Trail Park - infiltration areas (use of low flow swales and rip rap.planting)
- Hillside Park - implementation of bioswales
- Carville Mill Park - low flow swales, polishing areas
- Eagles Landing Park - Rain Garden (infiltration area)
- Twelve Oaks Park - infiltration areas (use of low flow swales, rip rap, planting for infiltration)
- Venice gate Park - low flow bioswale with planting
- Southview Park Retrofit

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Another five parks either in construction or planned are including measures to reduce water run-off. These efforts will ensure Vaughan green spaces are contributing to improving storm water quality.

#### District Energy

Action 1.2.2. of *Green Directions Vaughan* specifies that the City consider strategies to reduce energy use on a community basis by applying measures such as district energy systems. District energy systems create a centralized location for residential/ commercial heating and cooling systems. The plan also indicates that the City evaluate all major development areas for the potential of this type of system.

District energy systems reduce the production of greenhouse gases, especially with the use of combined heat and power systems. They are also an effective economic development tool. Building owners can potentially gain a cheaper means of commercial heating and cooling, lower capital costs, and more usable floor space compared to traditional mechanical systems. These eco-friendly systems can also provide municipalities with a competitive edge when it comes to attracting new investment. An extensive effort has been underway to educate the developers in the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre on the benefits of district energy systems. An information exchange opportunity was provided on district energy to staff to increase awareness and understanding of such systems.

The Canadian District Energy Association (CDEA) is working with the Toronto Region Conservation Association Community Transformation Program, Municipal QUEST (Quality Urban Energy Systems of Tomorrow), and the Canadian Green Buildings Council (CaGBC) Greater Toronto Chapter as well as several Ontario municipalities to support their desire to change the way energy is created and distributed in communities.

CDEA and its partners have identified that the Ontario legislative and regulatory framework is focused on conventional forms of energy and their delivery and in many cases present barriers to communities achieving their own energy goals. It was further noted that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing could play an important role in helping municipalities to achieve their energy goals and that the Provincial Policy Statements could be used to provide some of that important direction and support. The Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) is issued under the Planning Act to provide policy direction for land use planning and development across Ontario. The latest PPS was issued in 2005 and is currently under review by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Although the formal consultation period has ended, the review process continues and Minister Kathleen Wynne has invited the Canadian District Energy Association (CDEA) to provide a submission on what a PPS policy for district energy, as a key component of integrated community energy systems (ICES), would look like.

The City of Vaughan participated in a workshop hosted by CDEA and its partners to develop consensus on the approach for referencing district energy, as an integral component of an integrated community energy systems, in the Provincial Policy Statement. Municipalities supporting this effort are being encouraged to provide a letter of support to this effort or write Minister Wynne directly expressing their interest in an Ontario policy and program framework for integrated community energy systems.

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##### Indicators

Core indicators help to measure the impact of the outcomes and outputs of *Green Directions Vaughan*. In section 4.2 of *Green Directions Vaughan*, reference is made to reporting on changes in sustainability/environmental indicators for the purposes of reporting on implementation progress. Sustainability Indicators are also referenced in Appendix C of the Community Sustainability and Environmental Master Plan as the City of Vaughan's funding agreement with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario on Federal Gas Tax Revenues noted that indicators related to cleaner air, cleaner water and lower greenhouse gas emissions should be established. With implementation of *Green Directions Vaughan* well underway, it is important to establish indicators in order to monitor the changes that have occurred as a result of implementing the Master Plan.

Any set of indicators established for Green Directions Vaughan must be aligned with the strategic framework of the City. Discussions between the Environmental Sustainability Office and the Senior Manager of Strategic Planning have, and will continue to occur, to ensure the alignment of indicators. Broader strategic indicators need to be established before finalizing *Green Direction Vaughan* indicators. The core indicators should be easily tracked, meaningful to the departments responsible for tracking the indicator and compatible with existing benchmarks. The indicators should correspond to the goal areas of Green Directions Vaughan which are referenced on page 2 of this report.

In terms of benchmarking, there are a number of initiatives, including the Global City Indicators, the Living City Report Card and the Green Cities Index, which could provide useful comparators for *Green Direction Vaughan* indicators.

The City of Vaughan is a member of the Global City Indicators which provides an established set of city indicators with a globally standardized methodology that allows for global comparability of city performance and knowledge sharing. A few of the indicator categories including air quality and energy resonate with the goal areas and actions within *Green Directions Vaughan*.

The Living City Report Card is an assessment of the Greater Toronto Area environmental performance. The area of interest comprises the geographic area covered by the Toronto Region Conservation Authority. Although many of the indicators were tracked on a regional basis, several of the areas of interest of within the Living City report card correspond to similar areas within *Green Directions Vaughan*. These areas include air quality, water, waste, transportation and land use.

The Green Cities Index, which was released in September 2011, measures and rates the environmental performance of 27 cities in the US and Canada. The Index scores cities across nine categories – carbon dioxide, energy, land use, buildings, transport, water, waste, air quality and environmental governance – and is composed of 31 indicators. Sixteen of the Index's 31 indicators are derived from quantitative measurements and the remaining 15 indicators are qualitative assessments of cities' environmental policies, aspirations and ambitions – e.g., a city's commitment to consuming energy produced from green and local sources, the extent to which it promotes the usage of public transport and makes efforts to reduce road traffic, the ambitiousness of its waste reduction and water management policies, and the stringency of its environmental strategy.

All of the benchmarking initiatives noted in previous paragraphs should be given some consideration as the indicators for Green Directions Vaughan are established. These programs have topical indicators of interest and would enable the City of Vaughan compare its progress in addressing key areas of interest with other jurisdictions.

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#### Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

This report is consistent with the *Green Directions Vaughan* objective to lead and promote environmental sustainability and implement the Community Sustainability and Environmental Master Plan.

#### Regional Implications

There are no Regional implications resulting from the adoption of this report.

#### Conclusion

The implementation phase of *Green Directions*, the City of Vaughan's Community Sustainability and Environmental Master Plan continued throughout the 2011. A number of the major initiatives have progressed significantly which has helped generate momentum for the implementation of the Plan.

The integration of the concept of sustainability continued through the assimilation of terminology into other City policy and planning documents. With a strong foundation of sustainability in the policy framework of the organization it is evident sustainability is a dominant theme and an explicit corporate priority. A continued effort is required to sustain the momentum achieved in implementation of the Community Sustainability and Environmental Master Plan.

Since the last update in April 2011 progress has been made on a number of major initiatives identified in *Green Directions*. This report has identified some significant examples, which will have a lasting impact on the City. The status of all the Actions prescribed in *Green Directions* is set out in Attachment 1.

Generally, these initiatives will require inter-departmental cooperation; in some instances the participation of senior levels of government and the private sector may be necessary; and staff or other resources have or may need to be assigned. Those cited include:

- Sustainably constructed facilities as learning centres
- Promoting Energy Efficient Building standards for new developments
- Support enhanced standards of stormwater management and work with others to care for Vaughan's watersheds
- Work with Partners to develop and implement a trip reduction/active transportation strategy for the community
- Develop a civic engagement strategy to help citizens become aware of and participate in municipal processes and community Volunteer opportunities
- Implement initiatives to reduce water run-off in park facilities, trail systems, and selected City of Vaughan parking facilities

Work on these initiatives is on-going and they represent a significant progress in the implementation of *Green Directions Vaughan* and three main tenets of sustainability; healthy environment, economic vitality and vibrant community. Therefore, it is recommended that Attachment No. 1 be received for information purposes.

District energy is continuing to generate interest as a future community energy planning tool within Vaughan and Ontario in general. A number of municipalities are supporting the effort of the Canadian District Energy Association and its partners to provide an approach to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to include district energy in the revisions being contemplated for the Provincial Policy Statement.

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The tracking of quantitative indicators is required to measure the impact of the outcomes and outputs of *Green Directions Vaughan*. Indicators tracked should be aligned with the strategic framework of the City and correspond to the relevant core indicators being tracked in the Global City Indicators project that the City is involved in. The indicators should be easily tracked, meaningful to the departments responsible for tracking the indicator and compatible with existing benchmarks. It is recommended that the presentation on community sustainability and environmental indicators be received for input and discussion

**Attachments**

1. Green Directions Vaughan  
Community Sustainability and Environmental Master Plan  
Implementation Update  
March 2012

**Report prepared by:**

Chris Wolnik, Manager of Environmental Sustainability, ext. 8633

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)

CITY OF VAUGHAN

**EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 26, 2012**

Item 3, Report No. 4, of the Priorities and Key Initiatives Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 26, 2012.

**3 VAUGHAN MILLS CENTRE SECONDARY PLAN STUDY  
PRESENTATION BY DIALOG ONTARIO INC.**

The Priorities and Key Initiatives Committee recommends:

- 1) That the recommendation contained in the following report of the Commissioner of Planning, dated June 11, 2012, be approved; and
- 2) That Communication C1, PowerPoint Presentation entitled “Vaughan Mills Centre Secondary Plan”, dated June 11, 2012, be received.

**Recommendation**

The Commissioner of Planning recommends:

That this report and the presentation by Dialog Ontario Inc. entitled “Vaughan Mills Centre Secondary Plan” be received.

**Contribution to Sustainability**

This report is consistent with the Green Directions Vaughan:

Objective 2.1. “To achieve sustainable growth and development by completing and implementing Vaughan Tomorrow, the City’s Consolidated Growth Management Strategy – 2031, and by ensuring that the strategy is subject to periodic renew and renewal”.

Objective 2.2. “To develop Vaughan as a City with maximum green space and an urban form that supports our expected population growth”, Action 2.2.1. “through the policies in the new Official Plan, create a Vaughan in 2031 that has more intensification with increased height and density and mixed use in thoughtfully developed nodes and along transit corridors”.

**Economic Impact**

There is no economic impact associated with the receipt of this report.

**Purpose**

The purpose of this presentation and covering report is to introduce Council to the lead consultant, Dialog Ontario Inc; provide an overview of the project; and receive input on the proposed public / stakeholder engagement programs.

**Background – Analysis and Options**

**Background**

The Vaughan Mills Centre Secondary Plan is one of the secondary plans required by the Vaughan Official Plan 2010. Council approved the Terms of Reference and Budget for the Vaughan Mills Centre Secondary Plan on September 27, 2011. On March 20, 2012, Council approved the retention of Dialog Ontario Inc. to undertake the Vaughan Mills Centre Secondary Plan Study, as required by VOP 2010.

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##### Location

The Vaughan Mills Centre Secondary Plan Study Area is generally bounded on the north by Rutherford Road; on the west by Weston Road; on the South by Bass Pro-Mills Drive; on the east by Jane Street but including two properties located on the east side of Jane Street, south of Rutherford Road. The study area is bisected by Highway 400. The portion of the Study Area west of Highway 400 has an area of 84.4 ha +/- and the lands east of Highway 400 has an area of 54.6 ha +/- for a total area of 139 ha (343 acres), which excludes the Highway 400 right-of-way (See Attachment 1).

##### Study Overview

The Vaughan Mills Centre Secondary Plan Study Area is an important, prominently located parcel of land at the geographic centre of the City. Well served by the local and provincial road network, with plans for improved transit in the Jane Street Corridor, it is and will be an important component of the City's evolving urban structure. The study area is anchored by the Vaughan Mills Primary Centre, which is a shopping destination of regional significance. Being an intensification area, identified in the Vaughan Official Plan 2010, it is expected to evolve over time to accommodate greater densities and a broader range of primary uses. The study area generally includes three distinct areas: lands west of Highway 400 designated for employment and commercial uses; the central area including the Vaughan Mills mall and out parcels, and lands east of Vaughan Mills Mall, east of Jane Street that includes two parcels. The portions of the study area to the east and west of the Vaughan Mills Centre are designated for Employment or Commercial uses and are largely vacant. As such, they are expected to play an important role in the future of the City. The secondary plan will provide the basis for the area's long term evolution.

The study will be divided into three phases over the course of approximately 12 months.

- Phase 1: A background review, analysis, and reconnaissance.
- Phase 2: Development of the guiding principals, vision, and preferred development concept and plan development and testing.
- Phase 3: Final secondary plan and development approvals. It is expected that in portions of the study area where there is alignment with the study findings, efforts will be made to expedite policy approvals.

##### The Consultation Process

Stakeholder consultation will be an important component of the study. It will include the following elements:

- Stakeholder Interviews – a series of interviews with broad participation from a diverse group of community stakeholders and representatives will be undertaken.
- Stakeholder Group Breakfast Meetings – breakfast meetings will be used as an opportunity to broaden the conversation regarding particular developer/landowner issues and concerns. The working group will provide an ongoing forum for dialog between stakeholders (i.e. local businesses, user groups, non-residential landowners, developer groups) and the Consulting Team during the course of the Secondary Plan development.

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- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) – a forum to engage all City Departments and external public agencies. The consultants will present important aspects of the project, provide updates, share information and milestone dates, as well as discuss issues and receive technical input from various participating agencies and departments.
- Public Forums & Workshops – provide an interactive capacity building and visioning exercise with the public. These forums will include charrette, workshops, and presentations.
- Project Web Page & Social Media – materials intended for public release, such as reports, studies and workshop invitations, and other key information will be posted on the webpage.
- Council Meetings – presentations will be made to Committee of the Whole and Council providing updates at strategic milestones on the progress of the study.

#### The Deliverables

The products of the study will include:

- Draft Vaughan Mills Secondary Plan policies and urban design / streetscaping guidelines;
- Final Vaughan Mills Secondary Plan Study report including Secondary Plan policies and Urban Design / Streetscaping Guidelines;
- Presentation Materials, maps and graphic materials;
- Web content – for loading onto the City's website.

The consultant's presentation will elaborate further on the various elements of the plan.

#### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 20/20**

This presentation of the proposed work plan for the Vaughan Mills Centre Secondary plan supports the "Plan & Manage Growth & Economic Viability" objective of the Vaughan Vision 20/20 Strategic Plan.

#### **Regional Implications**

Staff from the Region of York have been invited to participate in the study process as members of the Technical Advisory Committee. Representatives from the Transportation Planning, Development Planning and YRT/Viva will be attending to provide input from a Regional perspective in matters of traffic and transportation, land use planning and transit services.

#### **Conclusion**

The Consulting Team is in the early stages of the Vaughan Mills Secondary Plan study. It is an appropriate time to introduce the project and present the workplan and the public consultation process. It is recommended that this report and the presentation by the consultant be received.

#### **Attachments**

1. Vaughan Mills Centre Secondary Plan Study Area



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**Report prepared by:**

Melissa Rossi, Senior Policy Planner, ext: 8320  
Roy McQuillin, Manager of Policy Planning, ext. 8211

/lm

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)

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Item 4, Report No. 4, of the Priorities and Key Initiatives Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 26, 2012.

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**4**

**OTHER ITEMS CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE**

**4.1 CONSIDERATION OF STATUTORY/AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**The Priorities and Key Initiatives Committee recommends:**

**That the following Ad Hoc Committee report be received:**

- 1. Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Sub-Committee meeting of April 12, 2012, Report No. 2.**