

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE JUNE 21, 2004

MAPLE STREETSCAPE WORKS – LANDSCAPED MEDIAN ON MAJOR MACKENZIE DRIVE BETWEEN MELVILLE AVENUE AND MCNAUGHTON ROAD

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Planning in consultation with the Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works and the Commissioner of Community Services recommends:

1. That Council endorse the resolution of the Maple Streetscape Committee Advisory Committee that the City of Vaughan construct a landscaped median on Major Mackenzie Drive between Melville Avenue and McNaughton Road in keeping with the Maple Streetscape Master Plan;
2. That City staff enter into discussion with the Region of York regarding the feasibility of the project;
3. That a more detailed design and cost analysis of the project be undertaken and that the design of the median and its extent be agreed upon;
4. That Maple Streetscape funds from the Keele Valley Reserve fund (project #5833-6-04, approved in the 2004 Capital Budget) allocated to Maple Streetscaping, pay for the design and construction of the median in keeping with the Maple Streetscape Advisory Committee's resolution;
5. That should the estimated cost of the project exceed the \$150,000 available in the Keele Valley Reserve fund then a further report will be brought back to Council with options for further discussion;
6. That the Engineering Services Department in consultation with the Region of York, Urban Design and Parks Development Departments coordinate the detailed design and implementation of the median;
7. That the Region of York provide at their cost the trees or equivalent for the median and adjacent boulevards as identified in the design; and
8. That the Region of York share in the cost of the construction and design of the median.

Purpose

To contribute further to the identification of Maple through the development of a distinctive streetscape as outlined in the Maple Streetscape and Urban Design Guidelines by constructing a raised, landscaped median in the existing centre lane, thus changing Major Mackenzie Drive from a "White Regional Road" condition to a "Green Regional Road" condition between Melville Avenue and McNaughton Road.

Background - Analysis and Options

The section of Major Mackenzie Drive between Melville Avenue and McNaughton Road has a five lane cross section with a continuous, middle lane facilitating left hand turns and associated stacking at those intersections. Major Mackenzie is flanked by residential development backing onto the regional road right-of-way on the south side of the road and is separated by a window road on the north side of the regional road right-of-way. As a result, there is no need for mid-block

access to properties. The existing length of clear centre lane is therefore unnecessary and could be used for a more attractive purpose.

The Maple Streetscape Community Advisory Committee and the Urban Design Department are responding to that purpose in advocating the allocation of funds to the construction of a raised, landscaped median with additional boulevard tree planting. The median and boulevard planting will enhance the Maple streetscape generally and serve as a gateway to and from the Maple core and Civic Centre; as well, the median will serve to indicate the western end of the McNaughton Road bypass. It will also contribute to traffic calming due to drivers' perception of diminished road width while leaving road capacity and turning movements unaffected.

The Keele Valley Reserve fund has \$150,000 allocated for Maple streetscape projects (project #5833-6-04, approved in the 2004 Capital Budget). The extent of the raised portion of the median may need to be reduced in order to be built with the funds available.

The Region of York is generally supportive of landscaped medians for the greening of streets though at this time they contribute no funding to the construction of those medians. Examples of landscaped medians exist on Wellington Street east of Yonge Street in Aurora and on Yonge Street in Newmarket.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This project is consistent with Vaughan Vision 2007 in that it supports enhanced safety standards (1.1.2) by separating traffic streams and providing pedestrian refuge opportunities, and it promotes regional and provincial initiatives on transportation infrastructure (3.2.4).

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council.

Conclusion

Council direction to staff is requested to approach the Region of York about the construction and cost sharing of a landscaped median on Major Mackenzie Drive between Melville Avenue and McNaughton Road. Further to an agreement between the City and the Region, the City will proceed with the detailed design and implementation of the median and landscaping utilizing Maple Streetscape funds.

Attachments

1. Location Map, plan, section.

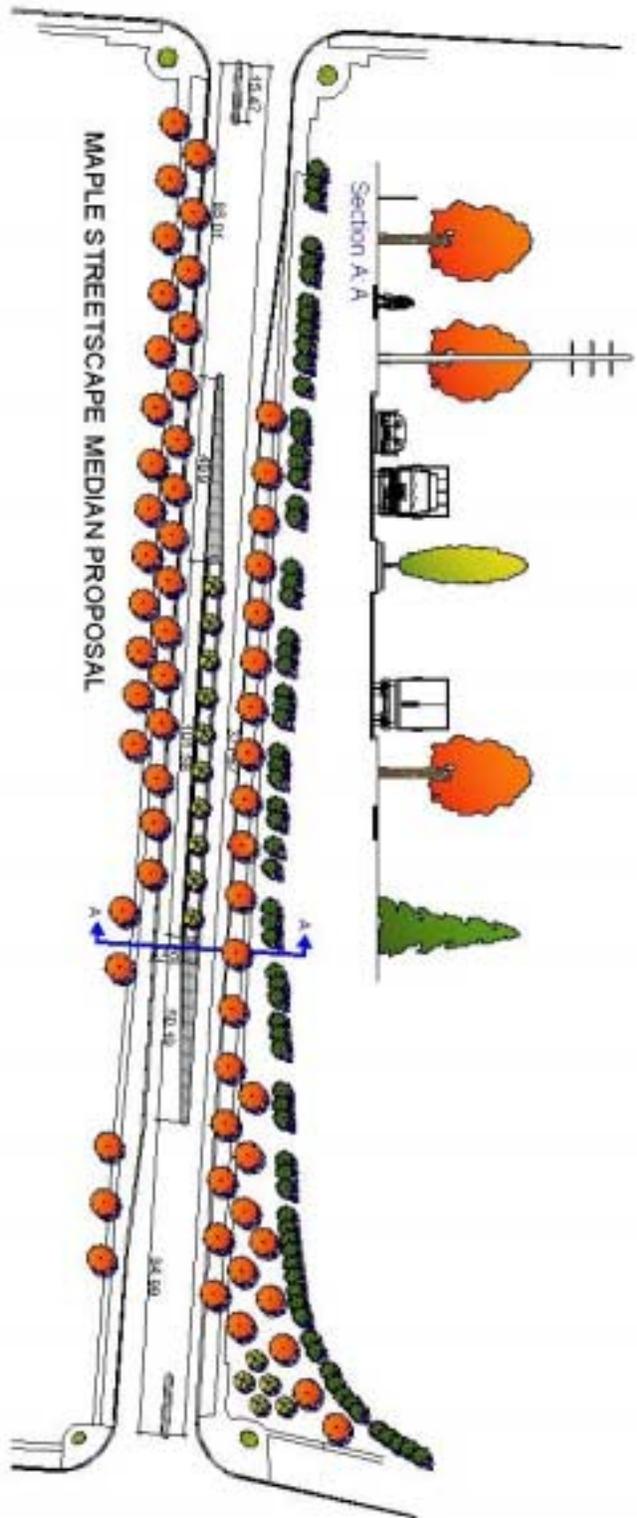
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Respectfully submitted,

John Zipay
Commissioner of Planning

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Director of Urban Design



MAJOR MACKENZIE DRIVE EXISTING CONDITION - 5 LANE REGIONAL ROAD SECTION

scale 1:1500