

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE JUNE 14, 2011

### VAUGHAN CYCLING FORUM

#### Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends that this report regarding the proposed Vaughan Cycling Forum be received for information purposes.

#### Contribution to Sustainability

A Vaughan Cycling Forum is being organized to facilitate discussions with cycling enthusiasts on cycling matters and the initiatives set out in the approved City Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan (PBMP). Increased cycling in the City will reduce automobile dependency, traffic congestion and transportation related greenhouse gas emissions. As such, the establishment of this Cycling Forum and the implementation of the PBMP supports many of the goals and objectives of Green Directions Vaughan, in particular Objectives 3.1 and 3.3:

**Objective 3.1** *To develop and sustain a network of sidewalks, paths and trails that supports all modes of non-vehicular transportation*

**Objective 3.3** *Reduce single occupant vehicle (SOV) trips by supporting active transportation, car pooling and public transit*

#### Economic Impact

The nominal cost associated with organizing and facilitating the Vaughan Cycling Forums (VCF) can be accommodated within the current Operating Budget of the Development & Transportation Engineering Department.

#### Communications Plan

Staff will use various means of identifying and communicating with individuals in the cycling community that would be interested in attending and participating in a cycling forum. This may include placing advertisements in local newspapers, bike shops and on the City's website.

#### Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of staff's plan to organize and facilitate regular Vaughan Cycling Forums with cycling enthusiasts living in the City.

#### Background - Analysis and Options

On April 2, 2007, Council approved in principle the City's PBMP, which was prepared by Marshall Macklin Monaghan. Subsequently, Council at its meeting on May 7, 2007 directed staff to develop a work program for the implementation of various components of the approved PBMP and undertake the associated work.

The approved PBMP also sets out the following objective related to the establishment of a cycling advisory group:

**Objective 6C:** Develop walking and cycling advocacy, advisory and information groups and programs

**Strategy:** Create a pedestrian and cycling advisory committee to provide input to City staff and Council on pedestrian and cycling initiatives to be undertaken by the City

Cycling advisory groups are common across Canada and are a useful means of bringing local cyclists together to discuss cycling policies, programs and facilities. In 2010, City staff met with a resident of Vaughan that is an avid cyclist. His input was very helpful to staff during the process of selecting the phasing of the bicycle routes in the Maple Community. Accordingly, staff believes that regular roundtable discussions with cycling groups would be extremely beneficial to the implementation of the PBMP and would encourage more cycling in Vaughan.

A Vaughan Cycling Forum would play an important role in the ongoing implementation and review of the PBMP, and provide an opportunity to discuss the following matters:

1. Cycling issues, policies, programs and other matters;
2. Design and development of cycling facilities, including standards, operations and maintenance; and
3. Priorities for the delivery of cycling facilities in Vaughan

The VCF will be open to citizens of Vaughan with an interest in cycling. Forums will be held at least once a year. Ideally, the VCF will have representation from all parts of the City. Development & Transportation Engineering Department staff will arrange and facilitate the Forum. Other City staff and members of Council will be notified of the Forum. Meeting notes will be posted on the City's new cycling website, which is currently under development. It is anticipated that the first meeting of the VCF will be held in early Fall 2011.

#### Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Implementation Update Brief

Since the PBMP implementation update was presented to the Committee of the Whole on February 2, 2010, the following initiatives have been undertaken:

- o Active transportation has been supported in the City's newly adopted Official Plan;
- o The City's Draft Transportation Master Plan updated the PBMP Bicycle Network to account for the growth areas identified in the new Official Plan;
- o The City secured York Region Pedestrian and Cycling Municipal Partnership Program funding in 2010-11, and submitted another application in June 2011;
- o Approximately 45km of bike route signage has been established on the local road network;
- o A new multi-use boulevard pathway has been constructed on south side of Teston Road between Jane Street and Keele Street; and
- o The City is actively participating on the Region's Inter-Municipal Working Group on Pedestrian and Cycling Implementation.

The implementation of the approved on and off-road components of the PBMP will continue throughout the summer months. Staff will bring forward to Council the annual status update report on the implementation of the PBMP in late Fall 2011.

In addition to the above, the Development & Transportation Engineering Department staff is participating as a member of the technical committee that has been formed to provide support for the development of a new Ontario Traffic Manual Book 18 – Bicycle Facilities. This committee consists of representatives from the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario and participating municipalities/regions in Ontario, and has been established to guide the appointed consultant throughout the project. Book 18 will contain information on legal requirements, standards, best practices, procedures, guidelines and recommendations for bicycle facilities. It is anticipated that the initial draft manual will be published in early 2012. The City is also providing financial support for the development of Book 18.

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

In consideration of Vaughan Vision 2020, this report relates to the following Strategic Initiatives:

- Pursue Excellence in Service Delivery
- Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health and Wellness
- Plan and Manage Growth & Economic Vitality

The report is therefore consistent with the priorities previously set by Council. The necessary resources have also been allocated and approved.

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### **Regional Implications**

The Region of York will be invited to participate in Vaughan Cycling Forum.

### **Conclusion**

Conducting roundtable discussions with cycling enthusiasts in Vaughan will ensure that the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan is implemented with input from key stakeholders.

### **Attachments**

N/A

### **Report prepared by:**

Geoffrey Haines, Transportation Specialist - Ext. 8026

Selma Hubjer, Transportation Engineer - Ext. 8674

Respectfully submitted,

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

Andrew Pearce, C.E.T.  
Director of Development / Transportation  
Engineering