

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 23, 2009

Item 1, Report No. 10, of the Special Committee of the Whole (Working Session), which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on March 23, 2009.

**1 HIGHWAY 407 INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENT AT CENTRE STREET
WARD 4**

The Special Committee of the Whole (Working Session) recommends:

- 1) That the recommendation contained in the following report of the Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works, dated February 27, 2009, be approved;
- 2) That the City of Vaughan confirms their objection to Option 3, a full interchange at Centre Street, but supports a feasibility study of Option 2, or variations thereof, for a partial interchange on Centre Street to take place prior to 2015;
- 3) That staff participate in the terms of reference particularly as it relates to the impact on local roads;
- 4) That the Ministry of Transportation/ETR be requested to protect the necessary lands;
- 5) That the presentation by Mr. Loy Cheah, Manager, Transportation Planning, Planning and Development Services Department, York Region, 17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket, L3Y 6Z1, and material submitted, be received; and
- 6) That the deputation by Ms. Gila Martow, 70 Coldwater Court, Thornhill, L4J 7S4, be received.

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends:

That this report and the associated presentation by Region of York staff be received for information purposes.

Economic Impact

There are no economic impacts associated with this report.

Communications Plan

The Region of York will be apprised of any resolution passed by Council on this item.

Purpose

The purpose of this report and the associated presentation from Regional staff is intended to provide additional information on the findings of the Traffic and Financial Model Study for Highway 407 Interchange Improvements in York Region, in particular the Centre Street interchange, pursuant to Council direction.

Background - Analysis and Options

In 1999, Highway 407 was sold to a private sector consortium as part of the Province of Ontario's privatization efforts with obligation to construct and complete seven interchanges along the existing highway including an interchange at Centre Street. The construction of the Centre Street interchange was deferred as per the agreement between the Province and the 407 ETR for a

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period of 15 years to 2020. The 407 ETR is obligated to initiate an independent study of the technical and financial feasibility of the Centre Street interchange to determine whether construction is warranted or further deferral of the Centre Street interchange is required.

In response to the full interchange proposal on Highway 407 at Centre Street that was documented in the agreement between the Province and the 407 ETR, Vaughan Council, at its meeting on August 25, 2003, enacted the following resolution:

“Whereas the proposed interchange at Highway 407, Centre Street and Dufferin Street has the potential to disrupt the adjacent residential area with traffic noise, interfere with the community feeling of the area and adversely affect the aesthetics of the area; and

Whereas the area is well served by the existing interchange at Dufferin Street; and

Whereas the community does not perceive a benefit from the construction of the interchange of Centre Street and in fact many area residents are strongly opposed to an interchange at this locations;

Now therefore, the Council of the City of Vaughan resolves that the Ministry of Transportation/ETR be requested to remove any plans for construction of an interchange at Highway 407 and Centre/Dufferin Streets from its program for future development of Highway 407.”

On June 22, 2006, Regional Council authorized Region staff to engage the IBI Group to undertake a Traffic and Financial Model Study for Highway 407 Interchange Improvements in York Region included the Center Street interchange. The Study was completed in June 2008 and identified three alternative interchange design concepts for a possible future interchange at Highway 407 and Centre Street. These three alternatives included two new partial interchange concepts from the west and the full interchange alternative as per the agreement between the Province and the 407 ETR as illustrated on Attachments 1, 2 and 3, respectively. The Study concluded that all three alternatives were technically feasible but only the partial interchange options were financially viable for construction in year 2021. It is important to note that a further independent study of the technical and financial viability of the Centre Street Interchange is to be commissioned by 407 ETR prior to this timeframe.

On November 17, 2008, staff submitted Report No. 57, Item 7 to the Committee of the Whole which provided an overview of the Traffic and Financial Model Study for Highway 407 Interchange Improvement Study and recommended the following:

- 1. That Council endorse the proposed partial east-oriented interchange on Highway 407 at Martin Grove Road and authorize staff to continue to work with the Region of York, 407 ETR and the Ministry of Transportation to facilitate the implementation of this interchange;*
- 2. That Council provide direction to staff on whether to support the protection of the necessary lands for a possible future partial interchange on Highway 407 at Centre Street or to maintain Council’s resolve of August 23, 2003 that requested the Ministry of Transportation and 407-ETR remove any plans for construction of an interchange at Highway 407 and Centre Street from its program for future development of Highway 407; and*
- 3. That copy of this report be forwarded to the Region of York.”*

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Council, at its meeting of November 24, 2008, adopted the above noted recommendations of Report No. 57 Item 7 of the Committee of the Whole as follows:

1. *The Clauses 1 and 3 of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Commissioner of the Engineering and Public Works, dated November 17, 2008, be approved;*
2. *That Clause 2 be referred to a future Committee of the Whole (Working Session) meeting and that staff be requested to provide a further detailed report.*

In response to the direction in clause 2 above, City and Regional staff have met and arranged for Regional staff to provide a presentation to the Committee of the Whole Working Session on the results of the Traffic and Financial Model Study for the Highway 407 Interchange Improvements.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council Vaughan Vision 2020 strategic initiatives:

- To enhance and ensure community safety, health and wellness;
- To lead and promote environmental sustainability;
- To plan and manage growth and economic vitality.

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

Regional Implications

The Region of York is seeking an input from the City with respect to the protection of a possible future partial interchange on Highway 407 at Centre Street.

Conclusion

Based on the presentation by Regional staff, staff is seeking direction from a Council on a possible future partial interchange on Highway 407 at Centre Street as outlined in Report No. 57, Item 7 of the Committee of the Whole on November 17, 2008.

Attachments

1. Hwy 407/Centre Street Interchange – Alternative Concept No.1
2. Hwy 407/Centre Street Interchange – Alternative Concept No.2
3. Hwy 407/Centre Street Interchange – Alternative Concept No.3
4. Report No. 57, Item 7 of the Committee of the Whole on November 17, 2008, Proposed Highway 407 Interchange Improvements In Vaughan.
5. Region of York staff report No. 9 of the Planning and Economic Development Committee, Regional Council Meeting of October 23, 2008, Highway 407 Interchange Improvements Study Final Report.

Report prepared by:

Selma Hubjer, Transportation Engineer, Ext. 8674

(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.)