

The Regional Municipality of York

Committee of the Whole
Transportation Services
October 8, 2020

Report of the Commissioner of Transportation Services

Partnership Programs Municipal Streetscape and Pedestrian and Cycling Annual Update

1. Recommendation

1. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the local municipalities and the applicable conservation authorities.

2. Summary

This report updates Council on the projects approved for funding as part of the 2020 Capital Budget and provides highlights on the Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program (Municipal Streetscape Program) and Pedestrian and Cycling Partnership Program (Pedestrian Cycling Program).

Key Points:

- The Municipal Streetscape Program and Pedestrian Cycling Program benefit local municipalities and other Regional stakeholders by assisting in advancing locally-initiated projects through cost-sharing of infrastructure that supports walking, cycling, safe and vibrant communities.
- The Commissioner of Transportation Services has delegated authority to award projects funded through the Council-approved policy.
- Successful applications must meet the criteria outlined in the respective policies and highlight how the projects will help contribute to Regional objectives.
- The Towns of Aurora and Newmarket and the City of Vaughan received funding as part of the 2020 budget.
- Funding is allocated annually with \$1,000,000 to the Municipal Streetscape Program and \$500,000 to the Pedestrian Cycling Program.

3. Background

The Municipal Streetscape Program and Pedestrian Cycling Program provide cost-sharing funding to locally-initiated infrastructure projects

The Region commits \$1,000,000 annually to the Municipal Streetscape Program and \$500,000 to the Pedestrian Cycling Program. Both programs are funded through the annual Capital Budget.

The programs offer cost-sharing to locally-initiated infrastructure projects that aim to enhance the streetscape of our Regional corridors and contribute to the enhancement of the Region's pedestrian and cycling network that best meet the needs of the local community.

Since the program launch in 2006/2007, 32 projects have been provided funding through the Municipal Streetscape Program with a Regional contribution of \$9,902,151, and 42 projects through the Pedestrian Cycling Program with a Regional contribution of \$6,975,650.

In 2019, funding through the Municipal Streetscape Program and Pedestrian Cycling Program was provided to projects in the Towns of Aurora, King, Newmarket and City of Vaughan

The Municipal Streetscape Program awarded a total of \$168,601 to the Town of Newmarket for the Bathurst Street and Davis Drive project and the Town of Aurora for the Yonge Street and St. John's Sideroad gateway project.

The Pedestrian Cycling Program awarded a total of \$500,000 to Phase 1 of the Town of Newmarket Bathurst Street and Davis Drive project, the Township of King Multi-Use Path construction on King Road, and City of Vaughan Multi-Use Path construction on McNaughton Road.

The Commissioner of Transportation Services has delegated authority to approve successful applications and allocate funding

Applications for funding under the Programs are vetted through the Streetscaping and Pedestrian Cycling Review Committee, which recommends projects to be considered based on the eligibility criteria outlined in the Municipal Streetscape Program and Pedestrian Cycling Program policies.

The Commissioner has final approval to allocate funding on all partnership program projects and reports on the status of the programs annually.

4. Analysis

Applications for the Municipal Streetscape Program and Pedestrian Cycling Program must demonstrate the contribution and support of Regional objectives

In order to be considered for funding, successful applications must demonstrate how local projects align with broader Regional objectives.

Municipal Streetscape Program applications must showcase how streetscape enhancements connect major transportation infrastructure with the local community using accessible and pedestrian-friendly design, along with promoting active transportation connections.

Pedestrian Cycling Program applications must illustrate their contribution to Regional priorities by providing alternative transportation options that reduce single occupancy vehicle use, improve accessibility and mobility through infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists, and enhance connections to major transportation infrastructure.

In 2019, two applications were approved for funding under the Municipal Streetscape Program and were included as part of the 2020 Capital Budget

In 2019, a total of two applications were submitted for Municipal Streetscape Program funding. Funding was granted to the Town of Aurora and the Town of Newmarket, as shown in Attachment 1.

The Town of Aurora was awarded \$144,332 for a gateway feature/paved plaza at the southwest corner of Yonge Street and St. John's Sideroad. This project provides a sense of entrance into the Town of Aurora, but, also serves as a destination and boardwalk linkage for pedestrians and cyclists using the multi-use path along St. John's Sideroad and the Tom Taylor Trail. The Town's proposal was to create a distinctive entrance for the Town of Aurora that would complement the boardwalk and education centre on the St. Andrew's College site.

The Town of Newmarket was awarded \$24,269 in funding for the Bathurst Street and Davis Drive gateway to enable completion of landscape works surrounding the sign feature. This gateway was based on the Yonge Street and Davis Drive Streetscape Master Plan vision. The landscaped gateway complements the Region's intersection improvement project by creating a distinct sense of entry into the Town of Newmarket, including pedestrians and cyclists using the multi-use path.

Table 1
Municipal Streetscape Program 2020 Allocation

Municipality/Regional Stakeholder	Total Project Costs	Total Regional Contribution
Town of Aurora	\$437,370	\$144,332
Town of Newmarket	48,539	24,269
Total		\$168,601

Two applications were approved for funding under the Pedestrian Cycling Program and were included as part of the 2020 budget

A total of three applications were submitted for funding for the 2019 Pedestrian Cycling Program application cycle. Funding was granted to two, the City of Vaughan and the Town of Newmarket, as shown in Attachment 1, as these best met Regional objectives.

The City of Vaughan received \$172,200 for Clark Avenue Bike Paths, a 4.5 kilometre stretch of paths on either side of Clark Avenue between Jason Street/David Lewis Drive and Yonge Street. These paths provide connections to the Bartley Smith Greenway, form part of the future Vaughan Super Trail and will connect to the future Yonge Subway Extension. This project was also provided \$1,138,237 through the Ontario Municipal Commuter Cycling Program received from the Province. This grant must be used by December 31, 2020.

The Town of Newmarket received \$327,800 for Phase 2 of the Bathurst Street and Davis Drive multi-use path. Phase 2 will build on existing active transportation connections at the intersection and connect to the north along the east side of Bathurst to the existing cycling facilities along Woodspring Avenue. The multi-use path will connect to transit stops and provide alternative transportation options to enhance pedestrian and cycling safety.

Table 2
Pedestrian Cycling Program 2020 Allocation

Municipality/Regional Stakeholder	Total Project Costs	Total Regional Contribution
City of Vaughan	\$6,000,000	\$172,200*
Town of Newmarket	655,576	327,800
Total		\$500,000

*Additional Regional contribution was provided through the Ontario Municipal Commuter Cycling Program funding.

The Programs continue to build critical infrastructure in communities to create vibrant and sustainable spaces

The Municipal Streetscape Program and Pedestrian Cycling Program allow local municipalities and Regional stakeholders, such as conservation authorities, to take advantage of cost-sharing opportunities for streetscape enhancements and new active transportation connections.

Collectively funding projects that meet local and Regional needs of the community allows seamless integration of projects into the larger Regional road network.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, increased use of the public road network through walking and cycling has elevated the importance of these investments in our Regional corridors to create active and vibrant streetscapes for all modes of transportation.

5. Financial

The Municipal Streetscape Program and Pedestrian Cycling Program are funded through 90% development charges and 10% tax levy. The programs are reviewed annually through the Region's budget process.

In years when total budget for the programs is not spent, funds are re-allocated to other growth-related roads projects within Transportation Services. Approved funding is to be spent within a three-year period, or applicants are required to reapply to ensure program funding is maximized and timely project implementation is achieved.

6. Local Impact

The Municipal Streetscape Program and Pedestrian Cycling Program allow for local and Regional objectives to be met by providing cost-sharing opportunities that contribute to streetscape and pedestrian and cycling network enhancements.

Both programs allow for infrastructure improvements in the Regional right-of-way that contribute to the local character of the community as well as Regional priorities.

Enhancing streetscape design and implementing a connected active transportation network promotes non-auto modes of transportation and reduces strain on the Regional road network during rush hours. Supporting the Region's objectives together, the Municipal Streetscape Program and Pedestrian Cycling Program contribute to the creation of attractive and sustainable communities.

7. Conclusion

In collaboration with our local municipalities and Regional stakeholders, the Municipal Streetscape Program and Pedestrian Cycling Program continue to enhance partnerships and make improvements to the Regional right-of-way through streetscaping enhancements and additional active transportation infrastructure dedicated to pedestrians and cyclists. Successful applications must meet the criteria included in the policies and showcase how the project will support Regional objectives.

The Commissioner of Transportation Services has delegated authority to award projects funded through the Council-approved policy.

A copy of this report will be forwarded to the local municipalities by the Regional Clerk.

For more information on this report, please contact Brian Titherington, Director, Transportation Infrastructure Planning at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75901. Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.

Recommended by: **Paul Jankowski**
Commissioner of Transportation Services

Approved for Submission: **Bruce Macgregor**
Chief Administrative Officer

September 18, 2020
Attachment (1)
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