

The Regional Municipality of York

Committee of the Whole
Transportation Services
February 11, 2021

Report of the Commissioner of Transportation Services

Greater Toronto Area West Transportation Corridor Update

1. Recommendations

1. Council request the Ontario Ministry of Transportation reconstruct Weston Road, Highway 27 and King-Vaughan Road to include a four-lane road cross-section across the future GTA West highway, as well as walking and cycling facilities.
2. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the Ontario Ministry of Transportation, City of Vaughan and Township of King.

2. Summary

This report updates Council on the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) Greater Toronto Area (GTA) West Transportation Corridor Environmental Assessment (EA) and staff's preliminary input for design of the highway interchanges and road crossings.

Key Points:

- MTO has commenced the preliminary design phase of the EA for the GTA West Transportation Corridor
- MTO is proposing a future reduction in the speed limits on Weston Road, Highway 27 and King-Vaughan Road to be applied to the design of the highway interchanges and road crossings
- MTO has jurisdiction for municipal roads within controlled access highway limits, and has the authority to reduce speed limits on Regional roads in the area of the proposed GTA West interchanges and road crossings
- Staff recommend reconstruction of Regional roads crossing the GTA West highway be consistent with the approved road network identified in York Region's Transportation Master Plan and that all road crossings include walking and cycling facilities
- Staff will work with the Province to ensure the design does not preclude a future interchange at Pine Valley Drive and at Highway 400 (at either King-Vaughan Road or Kirby Road) as requested by Council in [May 2020](#)

- Staff will continue to work with MTO throughout the EA preliminary design and report to Council at key milestones

3. Background

The preliminary design phase has commenced for the Greater Toronto Area West Transportation Corridor Environmental Assessment

In [September 2020](#), staff advised Council the MTO had announced the preferred route for the GTA West Transportation Corridor (Attachment 1).

The EA is currently in the preliminary design phase, which includes development of horizontal and vertical alignments for the highway, configurations of the interchanges and design of roads that cross the highway. The EA is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2022.

MTO requested that York Region consider future reduced speed limits on Weston Road, Highway 27 and King-Vaughan Road

Two interchanges along the GTA West highway are proposed with roads under York Region's jurisdiction, including a partial interchange to and from the west at Weston Road and a full interchange at Highway 27. There are also two freeway-to-freeway interchanges proposed within York Region at Highway 400 and the Highway 427 extension. King-Vaughan Road will cross the GTA West interchange ramps at the freeway-to-freeway connection at Highway 400 but will not have direct connection to the highway.

Weston Road and Highway 27 currently have posted speed limits of 80 km/h, and King-Vaughan Road is 70 km/h in the area of the future GTA West interchanges and road crossings. MTO is proposing reduced speed limits of 60 km/h for these roads. This would allow for a reduction in the size and amount of land needed for the interchanges, specifically the curved ramps for traffic entering and exiting the highway. A more compact interchange and crossing road will reduce project capital costs and require less property.

4. Analysis

MTO has jurisdiction for roads within the interchange limits of the future GTA highway and has the authority to reduce speed limits on Regional roads

MTO is proposing a future reduction in the speed limit to 60 km/h on Weston Road, Highway 27 and King-Vaughan Road. Staff has recommended MTO consider a future 70 km/hr speed limit on all three roads.

MTO has jurisdiction for municipal roads within controlled access highway limits and as such, has the authority to reduce speed limits on York Region roads in the area of the future GTA West interchanges and road crossings.

MTO will likely reduce the speed limits on Weston Road, Highway 27 and King-Vaughan Road within their jurisdictional limits once the GTA West highway has been constructed and interchanges and crossing roads are ready to be opened for traffic. Regional staff will monitor traffic operations on the roads approaching the future interchange and recommend speed changes to Council as appropriate as construction and other development in the area proceeds.

MTO anticipates the final EA Study report will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks by end of 2022. Although MTO has not released the GTA West highway construction schedule, Regional staff anticipate the earliest possible completion date for construction will be the late 2020's.

Additional municipal input is being sought by MTO on the design of Regional roads that cross the highway

MTO has requested municipal input on the design of roads that cross the future highway. As the new highway is built, roads crossing will be reconstructed to be grade-separated from the highway. MTO needs to know the road cross-section to be provided for at Regional road crossings to determine the size of the interchanges and approach road geometry.

Given these grade-separated road structures are expensive and will be in place for decades, staff recommends the preliminary designs for Weston Road, Highway 27 and King-Vaughan Road be consistent with the approved road network identified in the York Region Transportation Master Plan, which identifies a four-lane, cross-section on these roads. Staff also recommends these roads accommodate walking and cycling facilities across the highway corridor.

5. Financial

There are currently no financial implications to York Region as a result of this report. Should MTO seek any cost-sharing for Regional infrastructure as part of the GTA West highway, staff will request Council approval of any proposed arrangements.

6. Local Impact

The GTA West highway will support growth in the City of Vaughan, the Township of King and York Region. MTO has consulted with the City of Vaughan, Township of King and the Region throughout the GTA West highway EA process. Staff will continue to work with the City of Vaughan and Township of King to address preliminary design requirements as they arise.

Staff will also continue to work with the Province to ensure the design does not preclude a future interchange at Pine Valley Drive and at Highway 400 at either King-Vaughan Road or Kirby Road, as requested by Council in May 2020.

7. Conclusion

This report advises Council that Ontario Ministry of Transportation is proposing future reduced speed limits on Weston Road, Highway 27, and King-Vaughan Road in the area of the proposed GTA West interchanges and road crossings. MTO has jurisdiction for municipal roads within controlled access highway limits and has the authority to reduce speed limits on Regional roads in the area of the future GTA West highway.

Staff recommend Council request MTO to incorporate reconstruction of Weston Road, Highway 27 and King-Vaughan Road in the preliminary design to include a four-lane, road cross-section across the future highway, consistent with the Transportation Master Plan, and to also include walking and cycling facilities.

Staff will continue to work with the MTO, City of Vaughan and Township of King throughout the GTA West Transportation Corridor EA and report to Council at key milestones.

For more information on this report, please contact Brian Titherington, Director of Transportation and 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

January 22, 2021
Attachment (1)
11947081