

# **The Regional Municipality of York**

Committee of the Whole  
Transportation Services  
May 13, 2021

Report of the Acting Commissioner of Transportation Services

## **Yonge Street Transfer Request Levendale Road to Elgin Mills Road City of Richmond Hill**

### **1. Recommendations**

1. Council approve the transfer of jurisdiction of Yonge Street from Levendale Road to Elgin Mills Road from the City of Richmond Hill to York Region.
2. The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary bylaws.
3. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to the City of Richmond Hill and Metrolinx.

### **2. Summary**

This report responds to a City of Richmond Hill road transfer request and seeks Council authorization to transfer the jurisdiction of Yonge Street from Levendale Road to Elgin Mills Road from the City of Richmond Hill to York Region, further to City of Richmond Hill's [February 24, 2021](#) Council report.

Key Points:

- Construction of Yonge Street Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) from Highway 7 to 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue/Gamble Road was completed by York Region Rapid Transit Corporation in December 2020
- The City of Richmond Hill has jurisdiction over Yonge Street from north of Major Mackenzie Drive to south of Elgin Mills Road
- A section of the Yonge Street BRT from Levendale Road to south of Elgin Mills Road is within the section of Yonge Street under City of Richmond Hill jurisdiction
- The City of Richmond Hill has requested transfer of this approximately 750 metre section of Yonge Street so the entire Yonge Street BRT will be under York Region jurisdiction, and necessary easements can be granted to Metrolinx

### **3. Background**

#### **Construction of Yonge Street Bus Rapid Transit in Richmond Hill was completed in 2020**

The Yonge Street BRT is a design-build project funded by Metrolinx and led by York Region Rapid Transit Corporation. The project includes dedicated bus rapid transit lanes on Yonge Street from Highway 7 to Major Mackenzie Drive and from Leventdale Road to 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue/Gamble Road.

#### **The City of Richmond Hill has jurisdiction for Yonge Street from north of Major Mackenzie Drive to south of Elgin Mills Road**

The Yonge Street BRT is currently within the Region's jurisdiction, except for the section between Leventdale Road and Elgin Mills Road in the historic downtown area, where Yonge Street is under the jurisdiction of the City of Richmond Hill. Jurisdictional limits and extent of the Yonge Street BRT is shown on Attachment 1.

#### **The Region has an agreement with Metrolinx establishing roles and responsibilities for the project delivery of the Yonge Street Bus Rapid Transit project**

In October 2009 the Region entered into a Master Agreement with Metrolinx for funding of the Yonge Street BRT project. The Master Agreement includes the following principles:

- Metrolinx will have ownership and control over the BRT assets
- The Region will operate, maintain, and have regulatory control over the BRT assets
- The Region will convey an easement to Metrolinx for the BRT along the center of the road allowance
- Metrolinx will, in turn, grant access rights to the Region for BRT regulatory and maintenance purposes.

#### **The Region cannot convey an easement for the section of the Yonge Street Bus Rapid Transit currently under City of Richmond Hill jurisdiction**

York Region cannot convey an easement to Metrolinx for the segment of the Yonge Street BRT from Leventdale Road to Elgin Mills Road under City of Richmond Hill jurisdiction, as required under the Master Agreement with Metrolinx.

City of Richmond Hill staff explored two options to transfer an easement to Metrolinx for the Yonge Street BRT under the City's jurisdiction, as detailed in the February 24, 2021 report to Richmond Hill Council:

- Option 1: Transfer jurisdiction of Yonge Street between Leventdale Road and Elgin Mills Road to York Region

- Option 2: Easement transfer from the City of Richmond Hill to Metrolinx through a separate agreement

### **City of Richmond Hill requested the transfer of Yonge Street between Levedale Road to Elgin Mills Road to the Region**

The City of Richmond Hill recommended Option 1, jurisdictional transfer of Yonge Street between Levedale Road and Elgin Mills Road to the Region. Transfer of this approximately 750 metre section of Yonge Street will have cost savings for the City of Richmond Hill and will eliminate the need for the City to enter into a separate agreement with Metrolinx for the easement transfer.

## **4. Analysis**

### **Yonge Street from Levedale Road to Elgin Mills Road serves a Regional function, based on the Regional Road Assumption Policy**

The [Regional Road Assumption Policy](#) was approved by Council in June 2014. The Policy is used when considering transfer of jurisdiction of a road either from a local municipality to the Region, or from the Region to a local municipality. The Policy establishes the criteria and issues to be considered for road jurisdiction transfers.

For a road to serve a Regional function, it must support the Region's transportation plans and objectives, as defined by the Transportation Master Plan, Regional Official Plan and Vision 2051. To form part of the Regional road system, a road must meet one of the following functions:

- Perform a cross-boundary, inter-regional or inter-municipal function
- Provide a logical connection in the Regional road network
- Provide a direct link to the provincial highway system
- Support an existing or planned rapid transit route or connection to a major transit hub

Yonge Street from Levedale Road to Elgin Mills Road serves a Regional function since it is part of the Region's rapid transit network and meets the requirements of the Regional Road Assumption Policy.

Subject to Council approval, the Region will assume jurisdiction over Yonge Street between Levedale Road (south limit of intersection) and Elgin Mills Road. Staff will work with the City of Richmond Hill to transfer the road before the next winter maintenance season, targeting October 1, 2021 as the effective transfer date.

## 5. Financial

The Region currently maintains elements on Yonge Street between Major Mackenzie Drive and Elgin Mills Road on behalf of the City of Richmond Hill, including snow clearing, traffic signal operations and road maintenance.

Table 1 summarizes the estimated, additional annual costs to the Region, should the road be transferred.

**Table 1**  
**Estimated Annual Costs**

Description	Cost
Asset management (rehabilitation and renewal)	\$ 112,300
Road operations, including traffic signals and streetlights	114,600
Forestry	40,000
Total	\$ 266,900

Staff are reviewing the road assets along the corridor. It will be the City of Richmond Hill's responsibility to repair any assets that are in immediate need of repair.

The estimated annual cost to the Region to assume Yonge Street from Leventdale Road to Elgin Mills Road would be \$266,900. These costs would be included as part of the Region's 2022 budget process. Pending Council approval, staff will work with the City of Richmond Hill to transfer the road before the next winter maintenance season. There are sufficient funds in the Region's approved 2021 Operating Budget to cover winter maintenance costs after the target October 1, 2021 transfer date.

## 6. Local Impact

Subject to Council approval, staff will work with City of Richmond Hill staff to complete the road transfer, which would also allow York Region to transfer the necessary easement to Metrolinx for the Yonge Street BRT. This would eliminate the need for the City of Richmond Hill to enter into a separate agreement with Metrolinx.

Staff are working with the City of Richmond Hill to determine whether any existing infrastructure included as part of the transfer requires near-term repair and to undertake any necessary rehabilitation work.

## 7. Conclusion

This report seeks Council approval for the transfer of Yonge Street from Leventdale Road to Elgin Mills Road from the City of Richmond Hill to York Region, as requested by the City of Richmond Hill.

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



Recommended by:

**Ann-Marie Carroll**

Acting Commissioner of Transportation Services



Approved for Submission:

**Bruce Macgregor**

Chief Administrative Officer

April 23, 2021  
Attachment (1)  
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