

The Regional Municipality of York

Committee of the Whole
Transportation Services
November 7, 2019

Report of the Commissioner of Transportation Services

Agreement with Metrolinx for Rutherford Road/Barrie GO Transit Rail Grade Separation City of Vaughan

1. Recommendations

1. Council authorize entering into an agreement with Metrolinx for the construction and maintenance of the Rutherford Road (Y.R. 73)/Barrie GO rail grade separation in the City of Vaughan, in accordance with the principles outlined in Attachment 1.
2. Council approve advancing the budget for the Region's portion of Rutherford Road (Y.R. 73)/Barrie GO rail grade separation, in the amount of \$13.7 million.

2. Summary

This report seeks Council approval to enter into an agreement with Metrolinx for the construction and maintenance of a new road/rail grade separation at the existing level crossing of Rutherford Road and the Barrie GO rail tracks, as shown on Attachment 2.

Key Points:

- Rutherford Road from Westburne Drive/Barrhill Road to Confederation Parkway/Peter Rupert Avenue will be widened from four to six lanes and will cross underneath the Barrie GO rail tracks
- Metrolinx has awarded a \$239 million fixed-price contract to EllisDon Infrastructure Transit to design, build and finance the Rutherford GO Station improvements and grade separation
- The Region's contribution is \$13.7 million for the grade separation

3. Background

GO Expansion service enhancements along the Barrie and Stouffville GO rail corridors will provide more frequent and convenient travel options for residents

Metrolinx is implementing all-day service on the Barrie and Stouffville GO rail corridors in York Region. On the segment of the Barrie corridor between Union Station and Aurora, service will be improved to 15 minute frequency or better.

Metrolinx has proposed grade-separating a number of crossings on the Barrie GO rail corridor

As part of the planning for GO Expansion, Metrolinx has assessed the service planning work with planned corridor infrastructure improvements for the Barrie rail corridor to determine which crossings should be grade-separated.

As part of this initiative, Metrolinx is proposing to grade-separate the Rutherford Road, McNaughton Road and Wellington Street crossings. The grade separations will enhance safety, on-time performance, operational flexibility and reliability for the improved GO Expansion service.

An environmental assessment study was completed and recommended a number of transportation improvements for Rutherford Road

The Region's Municipal Class environmental assessment study confirmed the need for a number of transportation improvements for Rutherford Road/Carrville Road from Jane Street to Yonge Street to meet increasing travel demands. The recommended improvements identified in the environmental assessment study include:

- Widening the existing four-lane urban roadway to six lanes for transit/high occupancy vehicles
- Grade-separating the rail crossing at the Barrie GO rail corridor with the road going under the railway
- Providing a multi-use path on both sides of Rutherford Road
- Reconstructing intersections to replace aging infrastructure and comply with Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) requirements
- Illuminating the corridor

Construction of the proposed improvements on Rutherford Road is included in the 2019 10-Year Roads and Transit Capital Construction Program as follows (noted west to east):

- Construction on the section between Jane Street and Westburne Drive/Barrhill Road starting in 2020
- Construction on the section between Westburne Drive/Barrhill Road and Confederation Parkway/Peter Rupert Avenue in 2019
- Construction on the section between Confederation Parkway/Peter Rupert Avenue and Bathurst Street in 2022

4. Analysis

Proposed Rutherford Road grade separation will include infrastructure shared by Metrolinx, the Region and the City of Vaughan

Metrolinx and the Region have both identified the grade separation as a necessary improvement to ensure travel by all modes along Rutherford Road is not impacted by the increased train service. A road detour route will be constructed in order to maintain four lanes of road traffic and pedestrians during construction of the grade separation on Rutherford Road.

The grade separation will consist of a road underpass with Rutherford Road being widened to six lanes and passing under the Barrie GO rail corridor (existing single track plus two new additional tracks). The infrastructure will include a new storm water pumping station to drain the underpass, rail structure, abutments, retaining walls, foundations, pedestrian and cycling facilities, signals, utilities and illumination and a pedestrian bridge over Rutherford Road on the east side of the rail bridge.

Responsibility and costs for capital improvements, operations and maintenance will be shared by Metrolinx and the Region.

As per established practice for local municipal infrastructure on Regional roads, the pedestrian and cycling facilities and illumination will be paid for, owned and maintained by the City of Vaughan.

Metrolinx is improving the Rutherford GO Station

Adjacent to the proposed grade separation, Metrolinx is implementing a number of improvements at Rutherford GO Station, including:

- Installing a second track and making provisions for a third track
- Providing a multi-level parking structure on the GO station lands
- Demolishing the existing station building and constructing a new station, integrated into the parking structure

- Rehabilitating the existing parking lot, passenger pick-up and drop-off area, bus loop and site landscaping

The Region and Metrolinx have been coordinating the grade separation and station improvements

A coordinated approach has been taken to combine the road improvements and grade separation of Rutherford Road between Westburne Drive/Barrhill Road and Confederation Parkway/Peter Rupert Avenue with the improvements to the Rutherford GO Station, as shown in Attachment 2. Combining the delivery of the grade separation and station improvements will expedite construction, eliminate duplication of work and most importantly, minimize construction costs and disruption to residents, businesses and the travelling public.

Metrolinx, through Infrastructure Ontario, will lead and manage the work and has awarded a \$239 million fixed-price contract to EllisDon Infrastructure Transit to design, build and finance the Rutherford GO Station improvements and grade separation.

An agreement for the construction and maintenance of the grade separation is required to clarify responsibilities

An agreement for the construction and maintenance of the Rutherford Road/Barrie GO rail grade separation is required to ensure the responsibilities of Metrolinx and the Region are identified.

Metrolinx has indicated that it is prepared to enter into this unique cost-sharing agreement for the Rutherford Road/Barrie GO rail grade separation. Future cost-sharing arrangements on other grade separations in York Region will be considered either on a case-by-case basis or within the context of an all-encompassing master agreement with principles to be agreed upon by both parties.

The principles presented in Attachment 1 shall form the basis for developing an agreement for cost-sharing and overall governance for the construction and maintenance of the grade separation. The agreement will be executed by the Commissioner of Transportation Services, subject to review and approval by Legal Services as to the document's form and content.

5. Financial

Council approval is required to commit the Region's share of cost apportionment for the grade separation

The Region's contribution to the project is a lump sum of \$13.7 million, to be paid in 2019. It was expected the Region's payment to Metrolinx would occur following the completion of construction in 2022. Metrolinx is delivering this project using the Alternative Financing and Procurement model, a well-established way of financing and procuring large public

infrastructure projects in Ontario. As such, Metrolinx has requested payment of the Region's portion be advanced to align with the start of construction.

The approved 2019 10-Year capital program includes the Region's contribution of \$13.7 million in 2022 and is funded from 90 per cent development charges and 10 per cent tax levy.

Council approval is required to advance the budget and commit funding for the Region's portion of the Rutherford Road grade separation. The advancement of funding will be adjusted with unused funds on other projects with no impact on the approved 2019 capital program.

6. Local Impact

The Barrie GO Expansion and grade separation of the Rutherford Road/Barrie GO rail crossing will benefit residents of Vaughan and the rest of York Region

The significant capacity increase provided by GO Expansion will improve travel options for York Region residents and businesses. The grade separation of Rutherford Road will minimize delays for east-west travel, as there will be no delays resulting from increased train traffic. Residents and businesses in the area will benefit from the improvements planned for Rutherford Road and the Rutherford Road GO Station as part of the GO Expansion.

The City of Vaughan has been, and will continue to be, actively involved in the implementation of improvements to Rutherford Road, including the grade separation.

Metrolinx, in managing the project, will lead all community liaison relationship efforts. The Region, as a stakeholder and funder of a portion of the infrastructure, will sit as a member of the Communication Steering Committee, however all community engagement resides with Metrolinx as the deliverer of the project.

7. Conclusion

Metrolinx has identified grade-separating the existing Rutherford Road/Barrie GO Rail level crossing as necessary to support the GO Expansion program. The responsibility and costs for capital improvements, operations and maintenance will be shared by Metrolinx and the Region.

An agreement for the construction and maintenance of the grade separation is required to identify Metrolinx's and the Region's responsibilities and governance.

It is recommended the Region enter into an agreement with Metrolinx for the construction and maintenance of a new road/rail grade separation at the existing level crossing of Rutherford Road and the Barrie GO rail line and advance sufficient Capital Spending Authority to commit funding for the project.

For more information on this report, please contact Salim Alibhai, Director, Capital Planning and Delivery at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75229. 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

October 28, 2019
Attachments (2)
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