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Mulock Drive Multi-use Path Feasibility Study Update Information Report to Council

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In accordance with the Procedure By-law, any member of Council may make a request to the Town Clerk that this Report be placed on an upcoming Committee of the Whole agenda for discussion.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Mulock Drive Multi-Use Path Feasibility Study, in advance of a presentation to be made at the Committee of the Whole on May 25, 2021, at 1:00 p.m., and the public consultation that will follow.

Background

The Mulock Drive Multi-Use Path (MUP), which will extend from Harry Walker Parkway to Bathurst Street, is an addition to the Active Transportation Implementation Plan (ATIP) to enhance active transportation within the Town. This new MUP will provide a major east-west spine for active transportation. It will connect existing facilities (such as the Magna Centre, Newmarket High School, Town offices) with existing active transportation routes (including the Harry Walker bike lanes, Leslie bike lanes, the Tom Taylor Trail, the Yonge Street cycle tracks, and the Bathurst bike lanes) and with future amenities (such as the Mulock Farm Park and the Mulock GO station).

The Mulock MUP Feasibility Study examines a number of route options along Mulock Drive. Given the number of physical constraints and complexities along Mulock Drive, the Town conducted a competitive process through a Request for Proposals (RFP) to retain a consultant to facilitate the review. WSP Canada Inc. (the Consultant) was the successful proponent. A "Technical Advisory Committee" (TAC), consisting of technical

staff from the Town of Newmarket and from York Region, has been established to help guide the Feasibility Study and preliminary design options.

Discussion

The Mulock MUP will extend from Harry Walker Parkway to Bathurst Street. The Feasibility Study will determine the best route, based on the constraints in the right-of-way and the potential for connectivity.

The final alignment of the MUP will likely alternate between the north and south sides of Mulock Drive, depending on constraints currently located along each section of road. The Consultant is reviewing the alignment of the route, taking into account constraints such as conflict management, constructability, cost, residential proximity and access, transit effects, tree impacts, connectivity, destination access, driveway frequency, and intersection frequency. Constraints can also include obstacles such as the width of the boulevard and conflicts with utility plant (hydro poles, hydrants, other), bus shelters, trees, fences, the number of driveways, and whether those driveways are commercial in nature, among other factors.

The next steps will involve a presentation to the Committee of the Whole on May 25, 2021, to provide a status update, followed by public consultation that will include a Virtual Public Information Centre (VPIC) to be held on June 10, 2021, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Once completed, the Feasibility Study and a preliminary cost analysis will be presented to Council for a decision point on proceeding with the detailed design and the eventual tendering and construction of the Mulock MUP. The construction can begin as early as 2022, depending on approvals and the availability of approved funds in the Town's budget.

Conclusion

The Mulock MUP Feasibility Study is proceeding within the schedule and budget that were allocated. Staff is preparing to enter into the public consultation phase.

Business Plan and Strategic Plan Linkages

The ATIP addresses the Council Strategic Pillar entitled "Safe Transportation (Streets)". More specifically, the project addresses the following priorities under the "Safe Transportation (Streets)" Strategic Pillar:

- ii) Continue to implement the traffic mitigation strategy and Active Transportation Plan and explore/advance an off-road Mulock multi-use path;
- v) Develop a 'complete street' design and construction/reconstruction methodology to support ongoing safe street initiatives and continue to explore design options related to speed reduction, where appropriate.

Consultation

The study team consists of a Technical Advisory Committee comprised of Town staff and York Region staff. The study team provides input and shares information with other groups within the Town and York Region.

The consultant presentation at the May 25th Committee of the Whole meeting provides the opportunity for Town Council to review the project process to date and to provide input.

On June 10, 2021, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., a Virtual Public Information Centre (VPIC) will be held to inform the public and seek their input.

Human Resource Considerations

None

Budget Impact

The Capital request for the Mulock MUP Feasibility Study was approved by Council on December 14, 2020. This budget is funded through Development Charges, as the Mulock MUP is growth related.

Attachments

None

Contact

For more information or questions regarding this report, please contact Mark Kryzanowski, Manager, Transportation Services, at 905-895-5193 extension 2508 or mkryzanowski@newmarket.ca

Approval

Rachel Prudhomme, Director, Engineering Services

Peter Noehammer, Commissioner, Development & Infrastructure Services