

## MEMORANDUM

To: Members of Committee of the Whole

From: Paul Jankowski  
Commissioner of Transportation Services

Date: August 26, 2020

Re: Initiation of the Transportation Master Plan Update

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This memorandum provides Council with an overview of the proposed approach, principles and timeline for updating the Region's Transportation Master Plan (TMP). The updated TMP is being developed in conjunction with other Regional initiatives including the Regional Official Plan, the Water and Wastewater Master Plan and the Update of the Development Charges Bylaw and the findings will also provide vital input to the Regional Fiscal Strategy.

The updated TMP will align with the [Region's Strategic Plan](#) objectives of providing safe, effective transportation options for all travellers and supporting key transportation priorities, including future rapid transit projects such as the Yonge Subway extension.

### **The Transportation Master Plan is being updated to address provincial growth targets and evolving Regional transportation infrastructure needs**

The Regional Official Plan is being reviewed and updated through the [Municipal Comprehensive Review](#) process to address population and employment growth implications of recent amendments to the Provincial Growth Plan, Planning Act, and Provincial Policy Statement. As part of this process, the Region's long-term transportation infrastructure plans are being reviewed as part of an updated Transportation Master Plan to ensure growth forecasts to 2051 can be accommodated.

The TMP identifies the Region's long-term transportation vision, strategic objectives, policy directions and infrastructure needs to support Regional growth. It will further strengthen alignment with the planned urban structure being reviewed and coordinated through the Municipal Comprehensive Review process to ensure responsible city building. The updated TMP will leverage the successes of the 2016 TMP while ensuring the document remains relevant until the next update.

## **The update will build on transportation investments made at the federal, provincial and local levels of government**

York Region is supported by an extensive network of Provincial freeways (Highways 400, 404, 407, 427), GO Rail corridors (Barrie, Richmond Hill, Stouffville), subway lines (Toronto York Spadina Subway Extension) and 28 km of in-service exclusive bus rapidways. This infrastructure supports the movement of residents and businesses across York Region and the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area.

The TMP update will help ensure recommended transportation infrastructure improvements for all modes continue to be integrated with investments being made at the federal, provincial and local levels of government. Future infrastructure investments must also be reviewed to reflect social, financial, and environmentally sustainable objectives over the next 25 years and beyond.

The results of the Transportation Master Plan work will also continue to serve as the basis for future advocacy efforts for major transportation infrastructure needs, which cannot be built by the Region alone, such as the Yonge Subway Extension, bus rapid transit expansion and new or expanded 400 series highways, such as the Highway 400-404 Connecting Link, GTA West and extension of Highway 404.

## **The TMP update will reflect changes in how transportation infrastructure is planned and delivered since the 2016 TMP was completed**

The TMP update will focus on creating a Master Plan that is flexible and fiscally sustainable to allow for transportation infrastructure to be delivered to the Region's thriving communities by leveraging existing investments, facilitating partnerships and collaboration with other levels of government.

The planning context has changed since 2016 and infrastructure implementation has become more integrated with the priorities of other levels of government. The TMP will reflect external factors that impact the Regional transportation network, including changing economic conditions, development market pressures and evolving Provincial infrastructure investment priorities and co-funding requirements.

Key principles for the TMP update include:

- Providing a realistic vision for what transportation in York Region could look like over the next 25 years.
- Allowing for flexibility in future planning as many of the key transportation infrastructure investments are beyond the Region's ability to deliver independently from others (e.g. Yonge Subway extension).
- Defining a vision, strategic objectives and policy directions at a level that will ensure the update of the TMP remains relevant until the next update.

## **Plans for infrastructure investment need to be aligned with fiscal realities**

The 2016 TMP recommended \$22.1 billion in investment for transportation infrastructure over the 25 years covered by the plan. Although this was an ambitious target, it was believed that the provincial and federal levels would cover the full cost of rapid transit projects, which comprised a significant portion of the planned investment. Further, the 2016 TMP followed the prevailing industry approach of identifying all transportation needs and opportunities without financial constraints, an approach to master planning that is not wholly consistent with the Region's Fiscal Strategy. The TMP update will strive for a more fiscally sustainable approach, balancing transportation needs with the Fiscal Strategy.

Transportation investments over the next 10 years will be tied to the 10-Year Roads and Transit Capital Construction program, to be approved annually by Council. Transportation infrastructure that requires assistance from others to implement will be identified to advance further advocacy initiatives and to pursue future partnership opportunities.

## **A revised approach is being implemented to update the Transportation Master Plan to be more flexible and adaptive**

Similar to other municipalities, including the City of Mississauga, Peel Region and Waterloo Region, a revised approach is planned for the TMP update. The key components include:

- Documenting a Purpose Statement to define the vision for delivering transportation services in the Region and set the strategic direction for the objectives and policy directions.
- Summarizing Key Objectives - The five objectives outlined in the 2016 TMP will be revisited and refined as needed. Outlining Policy Directions to support the goals of the Region's Vision and Official Plan. Detailed action plans to meet the identified Key Objectives will be updated and reported on annually through department goal and budget planning processes.
- Producing Long-Term Transportation Network Maps to summarize the Region's needs for all modes of travel. The phasing and implementation of the networks will be tethered to the rolling 10-Year Roads and Transit Capital Construction Program which is reviewed annually by Council through the capital budget process.

## **Communication, consultation and public engagement will reflect the new reality in the COVID-19 pandemic period**

Virtual community engagement and public consultation on plans and projects is now required as York Region residents, and businesses reduce large gatherings to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The consultation strategy will prioritize the safety of staff and members of the public, while making best efforts to maximize participation. As a result, staff will implement new tools

and tactics to ensure stakeholders are engaged and can provide comments on transportation investments that matter to them.

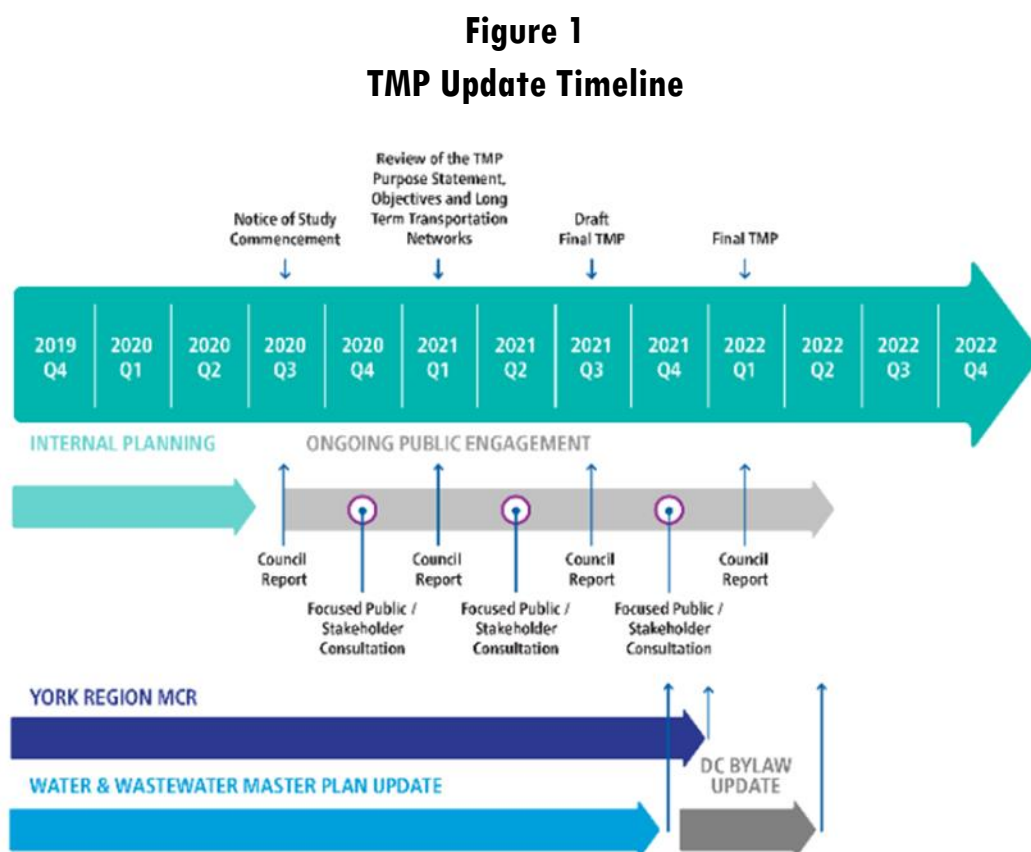
Stakeholder focus groups will be identified, ensuring a representative sampling by municipality, interest and demographics. Digital consultation platforms, social media and targeted feedback opportunities will also be available. The feedback gathered will be used to help shape the final plan and creation of in-depth communications plans.

Wherever possible, engagement for the TMP will be coordinated with similar efforts for the Municipal Comprehensive Review as well as the Water and Wastewater Master Plan.

### **The timeline to deliver the Transportation Master Plan aligns with updates to the Regional Official Plan and the Development Charges Bylaw Update**

Timing for the TMP update is being phased to ensure that transportation recommendations are aligned with the needs of the Municipal Comprehensive Review, planned for completion in 2021, and the Development Charges Bylaw update, which is required to be complete by the summer of 2022. The timing to update the TMP is also being coordinated with Environmental Services' update to the Water and Wastewater Master Plan.

The planned timeline for the TMP update is shown in Figure 1.



Summary of key TMP milestones:

- Issue Notice of Study Commencement upon Council approval Q4 2020
- Development of a TMP Purpose Statement Q4 2020
- Background research and evaluation Q1 2021
- Re-evaluate and update, as required, the 2016 Objectives against TMP Purpose Statement and develop policy directions Q1 2021
- Review and develop long-term transportation networks Q1/Q2 2021
- Develop draft TMP for review and comment Q3 2021
- Present final TMP to Council for endorsement Q1 2022

The completion of the TMP is dependent on Regional population and employment forecasts provided through the Municipal Comprehensive Review. The Province released Amendment 1 to A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe on June 16, 2020. York Region's evaluation of the impacts of revised population and employment targets in Amendment 1 may impact this timeline.

For more information, please contact Brian Titherington, Director of Transportation and Infrastructure Planning at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75901.

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