



## Staff Report for Council Meeting

**Date of Meeting:** April 27, 2022

**Report Number:** SRPI.22.044

**Division:** Policy Planning

**Subject:** 16th Avenue Crosswalk Enhancement

---

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this staff report is to seek Council's endorsement of the crosswalk enhancement design proposed at the 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Leslie Street Intersection, and to direct staff to proceed with the Region of York's Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program (MSPP) application for the cost sharing of the enhancement work.

### **Recommendation(s):**

- a) That Council direct staff to apply for the Region of York's Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program;
- b) At such time that Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program application is approved, Council, upon the recommendation of the Commissioner of Planning and Infrastructure, agree to enter into a Maintenance Agreement with the Region of York whereby the City agrees to provide required maintenance for the enhanced crosswalk;
- c) That Council direct that this project be considered as part of the 2023 Capital Budget process.

### **Contact Person:**

Joanne Leung, Manager of Heritage and Urban Design

### **Report Approval:**

**Submitted by:** Kelvin Kwan, Commissioner of Planning and Infrastructure

**Approved by:** Darlene Joslin, Interim City Manager

All reports are electronically reviewed and/or approved by the Division Director, Treasurer (as required), City Solicitor (as required), Commissioner, and City Manager. Details of the reports approval are attached.

## Page 2

### Background:

York Region initiated a Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program (MSPP) in 2006 as an incentive to local municipalities to undertake physical upgrades on regional roads in an effort to support sustainable modes of transportation and improve the appearance of regional streetscapes. The MSPP is a funding program that assists York Region's nine local municipalities by cost sharing, including the cost of preparing tender documents, on qualified streetscape projects on Regional roads. The Region commits up to \$1 million annually towards this program, subject to Regional Council review and approval. Local municipalities are responsible for the operation, maintenance and long-term rehabilitation of enhanced streetscape features.

Under the MSPP, two funding categories are available for qualifying projects. The Region will contribute 50% of costs for projects that align with a York Regional capital project, or 33% for approved projects that do not align with a capital project. The Capital cost of the streetscape enhancements as well as consultant fees are eligible for cost sharing.

Municipalities must complete an application to York Region for consideration through the funding program. The local municipality submits the completed Application Submission Review Forms as part of the Preliminary Design Application for the Region to review and evaluate. The deadline for the Preliminary Design Application is June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

This staff report seeks Council's direction to apply for the 2023 MSPP with an enhanced intersection crosswalk design located at 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Leslie Street, and to enter into a signed Maintenance Agreement with the Region of York to provide required maintenance for the enhanced crosswalk.

### Project Description:

#### **16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Highway 404 Road Reconstruction Project**

Road reconstruction of 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Leslie Street and Woodbine Avenue is identified by York Region as one of its 2023 capital projects. With Highway 404 located in the middle of this stretch of 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, the reconstruction project provides enhancement opportunities for the City of Richmond Hill west of Highway 404 to Leslie Street, and the City of Markham east of Hwy 404 to Woodbine Avenue. As this aligns with a regional capital project, the enhancement work, if approved under the MSPP, will receive 50% of cost contribution from the region.

In May 2021, city staff initiated a discussion with regional staff on the potential MSPP opportunities in this project. Subsequently an opportunity to develop a unique pedestrian crosswalk design that could act as an entry feature into Richmond Hill was identified. The crosswalk enhancement is to be located at the intersection of 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Leslie Street, which is the first major intersection in Richmond Hill west of

## Page 3

Highway 404 along 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, marking the easterly entry to Richmond Hill from Highway 404 (Diagram 1).



Diagram 1. Extent of the 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue Reconstruction Project

### Design of the Crosswalk Enhancement:

Inspired by the City's corporate branding, the proposed crosswalk design incorporates two green colours established by the City's corporate colour palette, while maintaining the banding pattern currently used by the Region.



Diagram 2. Proposed crosswalk design



## Page 4

Diagram 3 Mock-up illustrating the intersection

This entry feature crosswalk design may potentially be installed at select major intersections within the city as future MSPP projects.

### **Material, Cost and Maintenance:**

The material for the proposed crosswalk is the same thermoplastic product used on the York Regional road crosswalks including the VivaNext rapidways. The capital cost is approximately \$18,000 per leg. To complete the intersection for the city's design, the total cost would be approximately \$ 64,000. With 50% contribution from the Region, the cost for the municipality would be approximately \$32,000 to complete all four legs of the intersection.

With regards to maintenance, York Region does salting/brining, snow clearing and sweeping on all regional roads, and as a result, the crosswalks by default get maintained through these operations. The average life-cycle/replacement is approximately 7 years depending on the level of vehicular/truck traffic and it is York Region's expectation through the Maintenance Agreement that the City replace the enhanced crosswalk when it requires a refresh.

### **Consultation**

In addition to meeting with regional staff from the transportation and streetscape program, staff have also consulted internally with staff from Transportation Engineering, Communications, and Economic Development divisions.

### **Financial/Staffing/Other Implications:**

The cost of the enhanced crosswalk will be considered in the 2023 capital budget process.

### **Relationship to Council's Strategic Priorities 2020-2022:**

The proposed crosswalk enhancement aligns with the following strategic priorities in providing a strong sense of belonging by establishing the city's identity through a crosswalk design that refers to Richmond Hill's branding palate; in demonstrating fiscal responsibility by reducing the enhancement cost by 50% through the Region's cost sharing program; and by prioritizing ease of movement in the city through safe and accessible network for pedestrians and active transportation.

### **Climate Change Considerations:**

The proposed crosswalk enhancement contributes to climate change mitigation by enabling safe crossing within the community, reducing the need for vehicular transportation and helping to lower GHG emissions in Richmond Hill.

## **Page 5**

### **Conclusion:**

The crosswalk enhancement project at 16<sup>th</sup> and Leslie Street proposes the use of Richmond Hill's brand colours as part of the design, and will act as a distinct feature announcing entry into the city. If Council supports the project, staff will submit a preliminary MSPP application to the Region for its review on or before June 1<sup>st</sup> 2022.

## Page 6

### Report Approval Details

Document Title:	SRPI.22.044 MSPP 16th Avenue Crosswalk Enhancement.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Apr 12, 2022

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

**Patrick Lee - Apr 12, 2022 - 1:57 PM**

**Kelvin Kwan - Apr 12, 2022 - 2:05 PM**

**Darlene Joslin - Apr 12, 2022 - 3:44 PM**