



Staff Report for Committee of the Whole Meeting

Date of Meeting: May 17, 2023

Report Number: SRPI.23.064

Department: Planning and Infrastructure

Division: Policy Planning

Subject: **SRPI.23.064 - Bayview Avenue - 16th Avenue to Highway 7 Streetscape Corner Enhancements**

Purpose:

The purpose of this staff report is to seek Council's endorsement of the streetscape enhancement design proposed at Bayview Avenue, 16th Avenue to Highway 7, and to direct staff to proceed with York Region'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 York Region's Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program;
- b) That the Mayor and Clerk execute a Maintenance Agreement with York Region for the Bayview Avenue (16th to Highway 7) Streetscape Corner Enhancements upon the recommendation of the Commissioner of Community Services;
- c) That Council direct this project to be considered as part of the 2025 Capital Budget process and future operating budgets.

Contact Person:

Steven Bell, Manager of Heritage and Urban Design

Luis Dejesus, Manager of Capital Infrastructure Programming and Project Management Office

Ann Marie Farrugia, Manager Urban Forestry, Natural Environment and Horticulture

Report Approval:

Submitted by: Kelvin Kwan, Commissioner of Planning and Infrastructure

Approved by: Darlene Joslin, City Manager

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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.

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 qualified streetscape projects along regional roads, including the cost of preparing tender documents. 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 Region 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 1st, 2023.

This staff report seeks Council's direction to apply for the MSPP with an enhanced streetscape design located along Bayview Avenue from 16th Avenue to Highway 7, and to enter into a signed Maintenance Agreement with York Region to provide required maintenance for the enhanced streetscaping within their right-of-way.

Reconstruction of Bayview Avenue between 16th Avenue to Highway 7 is identified by York Region as one of its 2025 capital projects.

This road reconstruction project provides enhancement opportunities for the City of Richmond Hill along Bayview Avenue aligning with the regional capital project. The enhancement work, if approved under the MSPP, will receive 50% of cost contribution from the Region for the works within the Regional right-of-way.

In 2023 regional staff initiated a discussion with city staff on the potential MSPP opportunities for this project. Opportunities to develop a unique streetscape design that would enhance key intersection corners on Bayview Avenue were identified by the Region's consultant, in consultation with city staff, as shown in Figure 1:

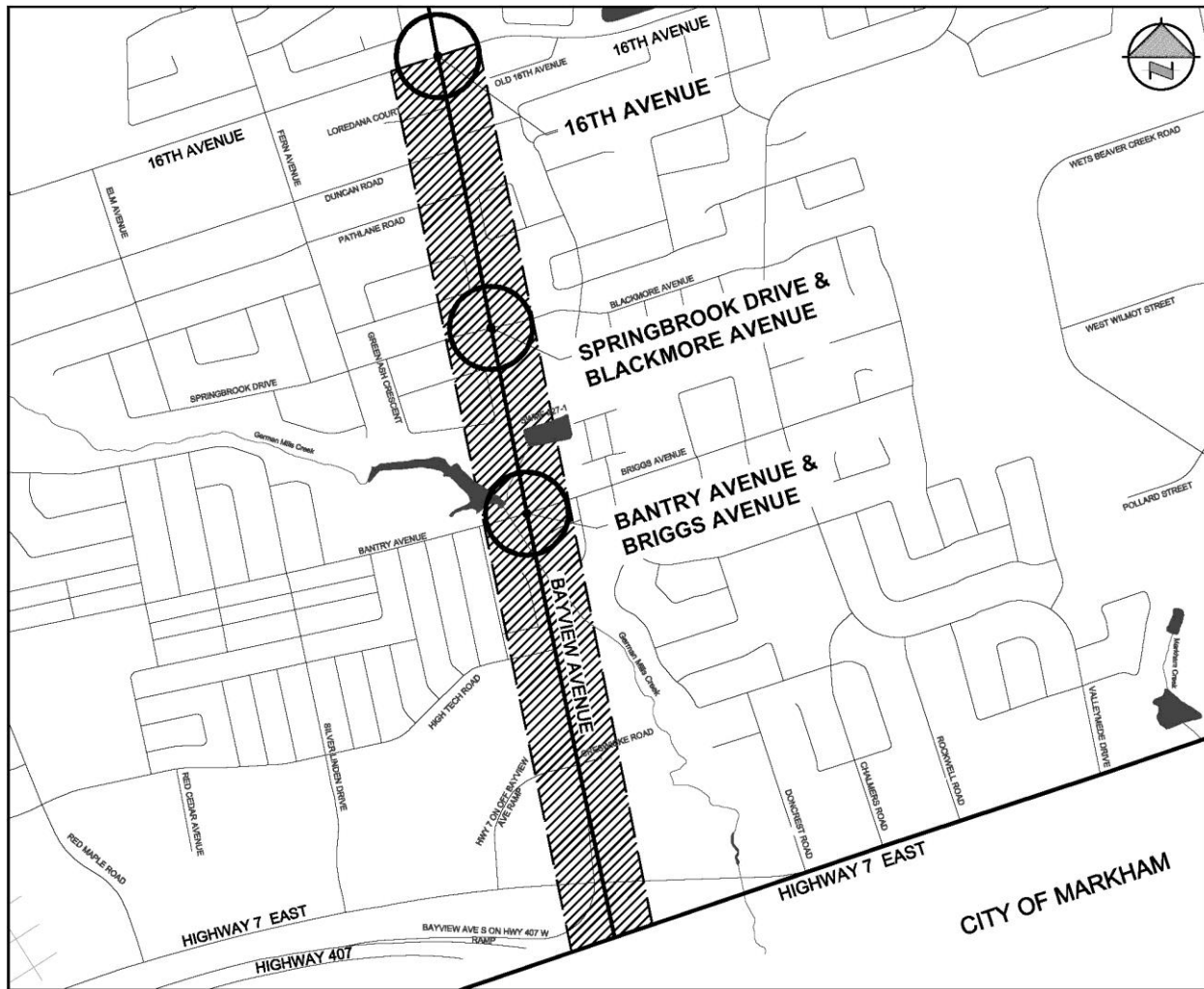


Figure 1: Extent of Bayview Ave, 16th Avenue to Highway 7 Reconstruction Project and Enhanced Streetscape Corner Locations

The design of the Streetscape Corner Enhancements is inspired by a green, sustainable and connected approach.

The design for the corner enhancements is inspired by a green, sustainable and connected approach to landscape treatments, utilizing low sodded berms and accent planting consisting of grasses and perennials, and interspersed walkways. See Figure 2 for Design Concept.

The landscape treatment is intended to respond to the location, shape and size of the corners, where opportunities for enhancement are feasible. The treatment will utilize the same look and feel, resulting in a cohesive and coordinated design strategy for the corner treatments at key intersections shown in Figure 1 and within the preliminary concepts illustrating exact locations for enhancements identified in Figure 3-1 to 3-3 in the attachments.

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Figure 2: Design Concept illustrating approach to intersection corner enhancements.

Financial/Staffing/Other Implications:

The cost to design and construct the City's enhanced streetscape concepts identified per intersection would be approximately:

- 16th Avenue – \$230,000
- Springbrook Drive / Blackmore Avenue – \$65,000
- Bantry Avenue / Briggs Avenue - \$260,000

The 50% contribution from the Region for works within their right-of-way would be approximately \$230,000. Therefore the cost to the City would be approximately \$325,000 to complete the identified enhancements, including works within the City land at the northeast corner of 16th Avenue. The cost will be finalized during detailed design and pending the formal 2025 capital budget approval process, \$70,000 could be funded from the Community Benefit Charges Reserve Fund and the remainder from the Cash-to-Capital Reserve Fund.

With regards to maintenance, City of Richmond Hill currently conducts snow clearing of sidewalks and pathways, grass cutting and maintenance of horticulture beds within these three intersections.

All the enhanced streetscape features identified in this report will be maintained by the City once constructed. The City has requested that any new plantings consist of low maintenance, salt resistant and drought tolerant grasses and perennials. Based on the concepts, maintenance requirements would consist of an additional 800 m² of

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horticulture beds and 290 m² of walkways. There would also be approximately 850 m² less of grass cutting due to the enhanced streetscape features.

Based on the concepts and the maintenance requirements, additional operating budget will be required. In consultation with Public Works Operations, the maintenance costs will be refined once the detailed design is completed and added to future operating budget requests. The annual maintenance cost is estimated to be \$15-\$20K per year to maintain the concepts, not including any winter maintenance activities.

Consultation

In addition to meeting with regional staff from the transportation and streetscape program, Heritage and Urban Design staff have also consulted internally with staff from Infrastructure Delivery and Public Works Operations.

Relationship to Council's Strategic Priorities 2020-2022:

The proposed enhancements align with the following strategic priorities in providing a strong sense of belonging by establishing the City's identity through an enhanced streetscape design at intersection corners; in demonstrating fiscal responsibility by reducing the enhancement cost through the Region's cost sharing program; and by prioritizing place-making tied to complete communities in Richmond Hill.

Climate Change Considerations:

This initiative contributes to climate change mitigation by reducing the amount of grass cutting required thereby reducing emissions from mowing equipment. It also contributes to climate adaptation by introducing low impact, drought tolerant plant species that are more resilient to heat stress and which help maintain permeability for stormwater runoff.

Conclusion:

The streetscape enhancement project at Bayview Avenue will act as a distinct feature enhancing the City's identity at key intersection corners. If Council supports the project, staff will submit a preliminary MSPP application to the Region for its review on or before June 1st 2023.

Attachments:

The following attached documents may include scanned images of appendixes, maps and photographs. All attachments have been reviewed and made accessible. If you require an alternative format please call the contact person listed in this document.

Attachments:

Figure 3-1: 16th Avenue (NE, SE corner)

Figure 3-2: Springbrook Drive/Blackmore Avenue (SE corner)

Figure 3-3: Bantry Avenue (NW, SW corner)

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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	SRPI.23.064 - Bayview Avenue - 16th Avenue to Highway 7 Streetscape Corner Enhancements.docx
Attachments:	- Figure 3-1 16th Avenue (NE SE Corner)- AODA.pdf - Figure 3-2 Springbrook Drive Blackmore Ave (SE Corner)- AODA.pdf - Figure 3-3 Bantry Avenue (NW SW Corner)- AODA.pdf
Final Approval Date:	May 7, 2023

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

Maria Flores - Apr 24, 2023 - 11:23 AM

Bob Levesque - Apr 24, 2023 - 11:25 AM

Paolo Masaro - Apr 24, 2023 - 11:53 AM

Tracey Steele - May 5, 2023 - 3:04 PM

Kelvin Kwan - May 5, 2023 - 3:10 PM

Darlene Joslin - May 7, 2023 - 10:07 AM