



Special Council Minutes

March 20, 2023, 5:30 p.m.
Council Chambers
Whitby Town Hall

Present: Mayor Roy
Councillor Bozinovski
Councillor Cardwell (Virtual Attendance)
Councillor Leahy
Councillor Lee
Councillor Lundquist
Councillor Mulcahy
Councillor Shahid
Councillor Yamada

Also Present: M. Gaskell, Chief Administrative Officer
M. Hickey, Fire Chief
S. Klein, Director of Strategic Initiatives
J. Long, Head of Organizational Effectiveness
J. Romano, Commissioner of Community Services
F. Santaguida, Commissioner of Legal and Enforcement
Services/Town Solicitor
R. Saunders, Commissioner of Planning and Development
F. Wong, Commissioner of Financial Services/Treasurer
M. Dodge, Executive Advisor to the Mayor
K. Narraway, Manager of Legislative Services/Deputy Clerk
K. Douglas, Legislative Specialist (Recording Secretary)

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1. Call To Order: The Mayor
 2. Call of the Roll: The Clerk
 3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

4. Presentations

4.1 Paul Bumstead, Senior Project Engineer

Re: Highway 7/12 Alternative Route Status Update

Paul Bumstead, Senior Project Engineer, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Highway 7/12 Alternative Route Status Update. Highlights of the presentation included:

- background information and the need for an Environmental Assessment (EA) Study;
- an overview of relevant policies and directions, including the Provincial Growth Plan, Regional Official Plan, Town of Whitby Official Plan, and the Memo of Understanding between the Town and Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO);
- a summary of Technical Studies, including the 2010 Whitby Transportation Master Plan, 2017 Brooklin Study, 2018 Feasibility Study, and the 2020-2023 Current Environmental Assessment;
- details of the Comprehensive Block Plan approved by Council in 2020;
- estimated project costs, which will be recovered through Development Charges;
- an overview of the MTO Class EA process;
- feedback received during the community open houses and public consultation;
- themes included in the problem statement, including support for growth, providing safe and efficient operations, and facilitating a complete street design;
- public feedback received through an interactive map that allowed interested parties to identify areas of concern within the Study Area;
- an overview of alternative corridors identified to provide an alternate route for Highway 7/12 to avoid Downtown Brooklin;
- a screening process applied to the list of six (6) alternative corridors carried forward from the Community Open House No. 1;
- the purpose, level of engagement, and outcome of the Community Open House No. 2;

- details of the Preliminary Preferred Alternative Route A;
- the level of engagement and feedback received during the Community Open House No. 3;
- the refined Preliminary Preferred Alternative Route B-R;
- direction from Council received on November 1, 2021 to consider the Thickson Road option and complete further consultation with the Region of Durham, MTO, and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;
- continued consultation with key stakeholders;
- details of the Alternative Route F on Thickson Road;
- emerging technical considerations, including the new hospital site and land use planning changes in northeast Pickering;
- a summary of consultation efforts with key stakeholders such as Ministry Agencies, Ashburn Community representatives, the Region of Durham, and residents;
- supplemental data collected in August 2022, including a transportation analysis and supplemental environmental review;
- the Regional Alternative Route on Goodwood Road;
- estimated capital costs associated with the Technically Preferred Alternative, Alternative F, and the Regional Alternative Route on Goodwood Road;
- status of the project budget; and,
- next steps in the determining the Highway 7/12 Alternative Route.

A question and answer period ensued between Members of Council and Staff regarding:

- clarification regarding the estimated capital costs associated with Alternative F;
- feedback received from Durham Region regarding the Regional Alternative Route on Goodwood Road;
- whether neighbouring communities are supportive of the Regional Alternative Route;

- monetary and other benefits associated with investing in a Highway 7/12 Alternative Route;
- whether the Highway 7/12 Alternative Route is anticipated to improve traffic capacity to service growth;
- clarification regarding infrastructure through the Oak Ridges Moraine and consultation with the MTO;
- the estimated project budget, capital costs, and the impact of inflation;
- the impact of Bill 23 and other Provincial changes;
- clarification regarding costs that would be incurred by the Town versus the Region of Durham concerning the Regional Alternative Route on Goodwood Road;
- discussions with the MTO regarding securing local control of Baldwin Street in Downtown Brooklin in advance of construction of the alternate route; and,
- implications of completing the project in a way that does not conform with the MTO's standards.

5. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Shahid
Seconded by Councillor Leahy

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Kevin Narraway, Deputy Clerk

Elizabeth Roy, Mayor