

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK

Transportation Improvements Donald Cousens Parkway to Morningside Avenue Link Amendment to the Environmental Assessment

NOTICE OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION CENTRE

Study Background

In 2002, York Region initiated an Individual Environmental Assessment (EA) for Transportation Improvements in the Markham Bypass Corridor South of Highway 407 (now referred to as the Donald Cousens Parkway to Morningside Avenue Link EA). The purpose of the EA was to address existing and future transportation needs between the southeastern area of the Town of Markham and the northeastern area of the City of Toronto. The EA Report was completed and submitted to the Ministry of the Environment for formal review in December 2005.

Since that time, York Region has been working with the City of Toronto to address outstanding boundary area transportation issues which have implications for the Donald Cousens Parkway to Morningside Avenue Link. The Minister of the Environment agreed to permit the EA to be amended to address the remaining issues. York Region and the City of Toronto have agreed to re-examine the alternative road alignments that were considered in the EA to take into consideration issues raised by the City of Toronto and the needs of each municipality. On this basis, York Region is carrying out an Amendment to the EA.

Amendment to the EA

The EA presented a clear rationale for nine road alignment alternatives that were developed and evaluated. The environmental factors set out in the EA were used in the Amendment to the EA to revisit the evaluation of the alignment alternatives and update the evaluation based on a current assessment of these factors.

Activities to Date

As part of the Amendment to the EA process, the activities carried out to-date include publishing a Notice of Commencement in December 2009, updating existing conditions (land use, natural environment, traffic), updating alternatives based on current conditions, and updating the analysis and evaluation of alternatives by taking into consideration jurisdictional issues between York Region and Toronto and the ability to implement the project. Through this work a technically preferred alternative has been identified, which will be presented at an upcoming Public Consultation Centre.

City of Toronto – Official Plan Amendment

An Official Plan Amendment will be required to amend the City of Toronto Official Plan, Schedule 2 (The Designation of Planned but Unbuilt Roads) and Chapter 6.3 (the Morningside Heights Secondary Plan) to remove references to the protection of alternative alignments and completion of an EA Study for the extension of Morningside Avenue. Revised wording will be added to describe the Morningside Avenue extension as determined by the Amendment to the EA.

Public Consultation Centre

A Public Consultation Centre (PCC) has been scheduled to present the work carried out as part of the Amendment to the EA, identify the technically preferred alternative and identify the next steps in the study. Members of the public will have an opportunity to participate in the process and provide input.

TORONTO LOCATION:

DATE: Tuesday, May 11th
TIME: 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Presentation 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Brookside Public School
75 Oasis Boulevard, Scarborough

MARKHAM LOCATION:

DATE: Thursday, May 13th
TIME: 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Presentation 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Rouge River Community Centre
120 Rouge Bank Drive, Markham

For further information on this project, please visit our website at www.york.ca and follow the project link on the front page. If you have any questions, please contact:

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