

# Government Relations Matters

City Council  
February 26, 2025



## Regional Council Meeting

Thursday, February 27, 2025 @ 9:30 AM | Meeting agenda is available [here](#).

### **8.2 Closure and Transition Plan for Peel's Urgent Public Health Need Site (For Information)**

#### Summary:

- This report provides an overview of the successful implementation of supervised consumption services in Peel and transition plan of the Urgent Public Health Need Site operations as a result of Bill 223: Safer Streets, Stronger Communities Act, 2024.

#### City Staff Comments (Community Services):

- The cancellation of this service in Peel may increase pressure on local emergency services and lead to more visits to the emergency department.
- The City of Brampton is a member of the Community Advisory Committee and will continue to monitor any impacts the closure will have on the community.

#### City Staff Recommendation:

- Receive the report.

### **9.3 Traffic Signal Operations and Maintenance Service Agreements – Request for Extension (Recommendation)**

#### Summary:

- Brampton and Mississauga provide traffic signal operations and maintenance equipment (O&M) services for Peel equipment in their respective municipalities. The O&M agreements with Brampton and Mississauga and the contracted services agreement with Guild Electric Limited for Caledon expire on March 3, 2025.
- Due to uncertainty regarding previously introduced Bill 240, staff recommend short-term extensions to the O&M agreements with Brampton and Mississauga and the contracted services agreement with Guild Electric Limited for Caledon.

#### City Staff Comments (Public Works and Engineering):

- City of Brampton staff are in agreement of an extension on the current contract terms while awaiting further direction from the Province on the moving of the responsibility for roads to the respective municipalities. This also provides staff with additional time to review the current contract terms, and the Arterial Roads Review Ad hoc Steering Committee (ARRASC) agreement, to identify any potential for fiscal and service improvements.
- The annual signal maintenance costs related to Region of Peel intersections are approx. \$2M - the City recovers these costs from the Region.
- The Region intends to extend the tri-party ARRASC agreement until July 1, 2026.
- City staff would like Schedule A of the ARRASC agreement be updated to reflect all new Regional signals that are now included as part of the annual signal maintenance program.

#### City Staff Recommendation:

- Support the recommendation

### 13.1 Asylum Claimant Interim Housing Assistance Program Application and Impacts (Recommendation)

#### Summary:

- The Interim Housing Assistance Program (IHAP) is a grant and contribution-based program that the federal government provides to support interim housing to asylum claimants while they await determination of their claim. The latest version of IHAP released in December 2024, outlines changes to the federal cost-sharing model for the grant period from January 1, 2025, to March 31, 2027, which has significant financial implications for Peel.
- Given IHAP changes and current asylum claimant levels, staff recommend reducing the service level from 1280 to 790 households, with accommodations for 680 individuals at the Peel Reception Centre (Spectrum Way) and 110 families initially in hotels.
- IHAP submissions were due by January 31, 2025. Peel's application was submitted with the caveat that it is subject to Regional Council approval. Peel's application includes funding for continued operations of the Peel Reception Centre, temporary accommodations, agency and program costs, capital acquisition and renovations of a location for asylum claimant families and regional administrative costs.

#### City Staff Comments (Community Services):

- Staff will continue to monitor developments for any potential impacts to the City and residents.

#### City Staff Recommendation:

- Support the recommendation

### **13.2 Outreach Contract Update (Recommendation)**

#### Summary:

- Peel Region oversees and/or funds several essential services for the homeless. Peel's Outreach program for the homeless is contracted out to the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Peel Dufferin. Through this report, staff is requesting the procurement authority needed to renegotiate or update contracts to address evolving needs.

#### City Staff Comments (Community Services):

- Staff support the recommendations outlined in the report as a means for adapting the Outreach Program to address growing and changing needs in the community.
- CMHA's work includes work by three placed-based teams: one in Cooksville-Port Credit in Mississauga and two in Brampton, with positive impacts.

#### City Staff Recommendation:

- Support the recommendation

February 19, 2025

### Canada is Developing High-Speed Rail

- The federal government announced that Canada is developing a high-speed rail network in the Toronto-Quebec City corridor.
- This rail network will span approximately 1,000 km and reach speeds of up to 300 km/hour, with stops in Toronto, Peterborough, Ottawa, Montréal, Laval, Trois-Rivières, and Quebec City.
- Once operational, current travel times will be cut in half. The official name of this high-speed rail service will be Alto.
- As Canada's largest-ever infrastructure project, high-speed rail will turbocharge the Canadian economy – boosting GDP by up to \$35 billion annually, creating over 51,000 good-paying jobs during construction, and unlocking enhanced productivity.



Staff will monitor development and progression of this initiative.

February 20, 2025

### Federal Government Meets with Premiers to Discuss Canada-U.S. Relations

- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, the Minister of National Defence, Bill Blair, Canada's Ambassador to the United States, Kirsten Hillman, and Canada's Fentanyl Czar, Kevin Brosseau, met with Canada's premiers to discuss Canada-U.S. relations and Arctic security.
- The Prime Minister updated the premiers on Canada's fight against fentanyl and the continued implementation of Canada's Border Plan.
- These measures include listing seven criminal organizations as terrorist entities; launching new anti-money laundering measures; tackling fentanyl trafficking; modernizing the regulatory framework for banning precursors to prevent their illegal importation and use; establishing a joint Canada-U.S. task force on organized crime; issuing a new intelligence directive on organized crime and fentanyl; and ensuring 24/7 surveillance of the border by deploying helicopters, drones, and 10,000 border personnel.
- The Prime Minister and the premiers discussed the evolving tariff threat from the U.S., including on aluminum and steel and the possibility of reciprocal tariffs.
- Federal, provincial, and territorial leaders agreed to continue their advocacy with U.S. partners to prevent the imposition of tariffs on Canadian goods.



A new intelligence directive has been implemented and supported by a \$200 million investment that will enable intelligence agencies to collect more information on organized crime.



### Emerald Energy Update

- At the June 19, 2024, Committee of Council meeting, several climate action groups delegated to Council expressing their concerns regarding an Emerald Energy site expansion application which was under review by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP).
- Council provided direction to the Government Relations team to review this matter and ensure the concerns of the groups are relayed to the relevant parties.
- As a result, Government Relations has since engaged with the following parties:
  1. Ministry of Environment, Conservation & Parks
  2. Peel Public Health
  3. Emerald Energy
  4. Climate action groups
- A briefing note on this matter was shared with Council yesterday.
- At this time, the application is still with the MECP.

Council will be notified if/when an application on this proposed site expansion is received by the City's Planning Department.

THANK YOU!

