



Government Relations Matters

**Committee of Council
March 10, 2021**

Regional Council

Thursday, March 11, 2021 9:30 AM | Committee agenda is available [here](#).

*Staff from Public Affairs have reviewed the Council agenda.

17.1 Queen Street – Highway 7 Bus Rapid Transit – Status Update (For Information)

Overview:

- The Initial Business Case (IBC) has been completed by Metrolinx, and confirms the need for BRT and recommends dedicated transit infrastructure on the corridor.
- Metrolinx will commence the preliminary design in 2021, that work will require the completion of a Preliminary Design Business Case, the completion of a Transit Project Assessment Process, as well as community and stakeholder consultations.

City of Brampton Staff Comments (Transit, Public Affairs):

- The Region of Peel is supportive of the recommendations in the Initial Business Case.
- The Region will become more involved in the next stage of the project.
- Provincial funding for the Queen Street – Highway 7 BRT is one of key advocacy positions for the City.

17.2 Greater Toronto Area West Transportation Corridor – Project History and Planning Impacts (For Information)

Overview:

- At the February 25, 2021 Regional Council Meeting, a motion was brought forward to:
 - oppose advanced construction associated with the GTA West Corridor and Transmission Corridor;
 - b) support the request for a federal designation of the project under s. 9(1) of the Impact Assessment Act, 2019 (Canada); and
 - c) oppose in principle construction of any transportation corridor transversing Peel, specifically the GTA West 413 highway and Transmission Corridor.
- The motion was referred to Regional staff to bring back a report regarding the GTA West Corridor Environmental Assessment project history and the impact of adopting the motion on Regional interests
- Regardless of the outcome of the IAAC request, Regional staff will continue to advocate for the GTA West Corridor EA.
- Implications of cancelling the corridor include the need to update the LRTP, difficulty achieving forecast employment levels, and the likelihood of additional infrastructure to support future growth.
- Continued need for Regional advocacy for consideration of a Health Impact Assessment and of impacts on the natural environment, climate/emissions, and agriculture.
- Related Regional agenda items include a number of delegations (Items 7.2-7.7), communication)Items 18.1-18.37; 18.39-18.63) and item 22.1 and 22.5 motions (deferred from February 25 Regional Council meeting) .

17.2 Greater Toronto Area West Transportation Corridor – Project History and Planning Impacts (Continued)

City of Brampton Staff Comments (Planning):

- Staff do not concur that cancellation of the transportation study will delay planning in Northeast and Northwest Brampton. The City has a phasing strategy for Heritage Heights that will allow staff to continue advance the secondary plan.
- Staff contend that the highway option does not support building places that encourage active transportation (TOD, walking, cycling), responding positively to Brampton's declared health and climate emergencies, encouraging a diversity of job types, broadening and building the tax base, reducing reliance on having to travel long distances to undertake your daily needs through compact and mixed land use development, etc. A boulevard option would be more compatible with these values.
- Staff support additional study regrading environmental impacts (GHG emissions). Staff would also support a Health Impact assessment to better understand the potential impact to community well-being a highway may have on near by residents.
- Staff will continue to participate in the GTA West transportation and transmission corridor studies – to look out for the City's interests – until directed otherwise.

22.2 Motion Regarding a Proposed Monument in Honour of Former Ontario Premier, Bill Davis, on the Grounds of the Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives (PAMA) in Brampton

- Regional staff to report back to Regional Council in April 2021 with recommendations for a proposed monument in honour of former Premier of Ontario, Bill Davis, on the grounds of the Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives (PAMA) in Brampton.

22.4 Motion Regarding 2021 Year of Sustainable Active Mobility

- Staff welcome the resolution's directives to strengthen active transportation efforts across the Region, which complement the City's AT objectives.

22.5 Motion Regarding Greater Toronto Area West Highway Corridor

- Deferred from February 25 Regional Council meeting
- Related to item 17.2

Effective March 8 at 12:01 a.m.
The three public health regions will transition from the shutdown into the revised and strengthened COVID-19 Response Framework.

 **Moving to Grey-Lockdown:**
• TORONTO PUBLIC HEALTH
• PEEL PUBLIC HEALTH

 **Moving to Red-Control:**
• NORTH BAY PARRY SOUND DISTRICT

More provincial funding
to help communities respond to COVID-19



March 5, 2021: As of Monday, March 8, 2021 at 12:01 a.m the Peel Public Health and Toronto Public Health return to the Framework at the Grey-Lockdown level.

March 5, 2021: The Ontario government is preparing to move into Phase Two of its COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan next month. During Phase Two, groups that will receive the vaccine include:

- Older adults between 60-79 years of age;
- Individuals with specific health conditions and some primary caregivers;
- People who live and work in congregate settings and some primary caregivers;
- People who live in hot spots
- Certain workers who cannot work from home.

March 4, 2021: Providing an additional \$500 million to help the province's 444 municipalities address ongoing COVID-19 operating costs. The new financial relief will help ensure the delivery of critical services and keep capital projects on track.

- The City of Brampton allocation is \$14,697,948.00.

The 2021 Ontario Budget is expected to be delivered no later than March 31.



March 5, 2021: The Federal and Provincial governments announced investment to create a Community Youth Hub at South Fletcher's Sportsplex in Brampton. Investment breakdown:

Canada: \$565,000 | Ontario: \$470,786 | City of Brampton: \$376,714

March 4, 2021: Announced \$2.75B in funding over five years, starting in 2021, to enhance public transit systems and switch them to cleaner electrical power, including supporting the purchase of zero-emission public transit and school buses.

- This funding is part of an eight year, \$14.9B public transit investment outlined by the Prime Minister on February 10, 2021.

March 3, 2021: Announced that the government intends to extend the current rate structures for these subsidies from March 14 to June 5, 2021. Specifically:

- the maximum wage subsidy rate for active employees would remain at 75%
- the maximum rent subsidy rate would remain at 65%; and
- Lockdown Support would remain at 25% and continue to be provided in addition to the rent subsidy, providing eligible hard hit businesses with rent support of up to 90%.