



REPORT

REPORT TO: Chair and Members of the Planning, Public Works and Transportation Committee

REPORT FROM: Rob Stribbell, Transportation Planner

DATE: April 30, 2019

REPORT NO.: TPW-2019-0015

RE: Transportation Strategy Update

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. TPW-2019-0015, dated April 30, 2019 regarding the Town of Halton Hills Transportation Strategy Update, be received.

BACKGROUND:

Through Report PI-2016-0025 staff presented the Transportation Strategy to the Community Affairs Committee. The report outlined how various plans, policies, strategies, and documents that guide transportation in Halton Hills, work together to form the Transportation Strategy for the Town. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the status and timing of various aspects of the Transportation Strategy for the Town of Halton Hills.

In addition, the report indicated that in order to achieve many of the strategic action items identified under the 2014-2018 strategic priority for Transportation Mobility, a logical work plan needed to be established.

Cycling Master Plan

The 2010 Halton Hills Cycling Master Plan, an update to the 1999 Trails and Cycling Master Plan, was developed to guide the implementation of a town-wide cycling system. The Halton Hills Cycling Master Plan study was initiated in 2009 in response to policy initiatives including the Halton Hills Official Plan Consolidation (2008), which called for the consideration of non-motorized movement in existing and new developments, and the promotion of connectivity, mobility, and pedestrian and transit-oriented development.

The Cycling Master Plan has guided staff in adding cycling infrastructure in the Town. The completion of the Active Transportation Master Plan scheduled for the end of 2019

will replace the Cycling Master Plan but will continue to encourage and promote cycling in the Town.

The Town of Halton Hills Transportation Master Plan

In 2011, the Town completed its first comprehensive Transportation Master Plan (TMP) study to develop an integrated transportation plan and associated strategies to meet the transportation challenges facing the Town to the year 2031, including those arising from Vision Georgetown. The TMP describes, anticipates, and plans for the movement of people and goods in a multi-modal, accessible transportation system.

Integrated Community Sustainability Strategy

Imagine Halton Hills, the Town's Integrated Community Sustainability Strategy, includes a long-term community vision to the year 2060 which is supported by individual visions for the four pillars of sustainability: Cultural Vibrancy, Economic Prosperity, Environmental Health, and Social Well-being. Each of these pillars is equally important and includes several focus areas, goals, and indicators. Transportation is identified as a focus area under the pillar of Social Well-being.

ActiVan Master Plan

The ActiVan Master Plan was developed to address the forecasted growth in the senior population and the requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). As part of this plan, it also explored options for expanding transit services to youth. In 2016 the Town implemented the Youth Taxi Scrip Program.

In June 2018, the provider of the ActiVan service ceased operations, which led to the Town of Halton Hills assuming responsibility for the ActiVan service. Operators of the service are employed by the Town and all operations are done in-house as part of a 2-year trial period.

Vision Georgetown Secondary Plan

On July 9, 2018, Council for the Town of Halton Hills adopted a by-law for the Official Plan Amendment No. 32 regarding the Vision Georgetown Secondary Plan. The Vision Georgetown Secondary Plan aims to establish a transportation system that safely and efficiently accommodates different forms of travel (including automobiles, walking, and cycling) and plans for future public transit.

COMMENTS:

Through Report PI-2016-0025, dated May 17, 2016, Town staff outlined that in order to meet all of the goals and objectives in the Town's Strategic Action Plan and other approved plans, a systematic and logical work plan needed to be established.

This report depicts how various studies and plans help form the overall Transportation Strategy and outlined below is the progress to-date and the next steps required for the work plan.

Trucking Strategy

The 2014-2018 Strategic Action Plan directs staff to develop a long-term Truck Movement Strategy for the Town. The Trucking Strategy Study supports the economic development and employment opportunities while balancing the needs of the community and improving the quality of life in Halton Hills.

It developed a series of improvement strategies and recommendations that can be implemented in the short term, medium term, and long term and is being presented in tandem with this report to Committee. The implementation of some of the improvement strategies will commence this year.

Transit Service Strategy

The 2014-2018 Strategic Action Plan directs staff to develop a Public Transit Strategy to address the needs of all potential users, prior to or as part of the Transportation Master Plan Update. The Transit Service Strategy was initiated in 2017. Through consultation with the public, stakeholders, and relevant agencies, Town staff are developing a made in Halton Hills approach to transit which will serve the needs of the community. The final recommendations of the Transit Service Strategy are expected to be presented to Council in June 2019.

Active Transportation Master Plan

The 2014-2018 Strategic Action Plan directs staff to develop an Active Transportation Plan, prior to or as part of the Transportation Master Plan Update, to support and encourage the use of all active modes of transportation. The Active Transportation Master Plan was initiated in 2018 and is currently in Phase 1 of 4. As part of the development of the Active Transportation Master Plan, Town staff will be consulting and engaging Council and the Public through Public Information Centres (PIC) and presentations at Council. The first PIC was on May 1, 2019. The Town will also utilize the 'Let's Talk Halton Hills' public engagement platform to seek comments and feedback where necessary. Through the Active Transportation Master Plan development process, the Town will also develop a complete streets policy that will be implemented Town wide. It is anticipated that the study will be completed in December 2019.

Transportation Master Plan Update

The Town of Halton Hills Transportation Master Plan (TMP) uses transportation model assumptions reflective of the Halton Regional TMP including population, employment land use forecasts, future road network information, future modal splits, as well as utilizing Halton Region's model for travel demand analysis. An updated model and data for new planning timeframes must be available to draw from in order to conduct a meaningful update to the current TMP. As such, the Town staff will defer the update to the Town's Transportation Master Plan until such time that Halton Region has completed the update to their own TMP which is scheduled to be completed in late 2020.

Eighth Line Environmental Assessment

The Eighth Line Class EA was initiated in 2018 and will evaluate traffic capacity, travel demand management measures, safety issues, natural environment impacts, land use implications, transit, and active transportation considerations along the Eighth Line Corridor. The possible improvements include widening Eighth Line from Steeles Avenue to Maple Avenue from two (2) to four (4) lanes, and consideration of all modes of transportation including active transportation and transit.

Mill Street Corridor Precinct Neighbourhood Study

The purpose of the Mill Street Corridor Precinct Neighbourhood Study is to develop a plan and preliminary designs that reflect the goals of the Georgetown GO Station Area Secondary Plan and addresses infrastructure issues in the neighbourhood. The study was initiated in the summer of 2018 and is currently in Phase 3 of 4. In this phase the preferred alternative will be identified by Town staff and the Consultant and will be presented to Council and the Public. Phase 4 will include an analysis of Public and Council feedback on preliminary design solutions and a final study and recommendations report incorporating all summary reports prepared in Phases 1-3 will be presented. The study is scheduled to be completed by fall 2019.

GTA West/Norval West By-Pass

In December 2015, the Province suspended its work on the Environmental Assessment of the Greater Toronto Area West Highway Corridor (GTA West). An advisory panel was appointed to assist the ministry in reviewing the GTA West project. The panel was tasked with providing advice on the need for the GTA West corridor, in light of recent changes in government policy and transportation technology that could impact the demand for travel. In February 2018, the Province announced that it will not proceed with an Environmental Assessment for a proposed highway in the GTA West corridor but will still provide for corridor protection in the area in order to meet future infrastructure needs.

In November 2018, the Province announced that it will be resuming the suspended Environmental Assessment of the GTA West corridor. However, no further information has been provided. Town staff will continue to monitor any changes to the GTA West corridor.

The Norval West By-Pass lead by Halton Region was put on hold due to the pending outcome of the GTA West corridor. Town staff has received a commitment from Halton Region that they will commence with the Norval West By-Pass EA study in 2019. The focus of the Norval West By-Pass is to establish a road link from Highway 7 to 10 Side Road, west of Norval. Staff will be participating in the study and will provide updates to Council when appropriate.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

The recommendations of this report directly support the following Strategic Directions, Goals and Objectives of the Town of Halton Hills Strategic Plan:

Transportation/Mobility was identified as a strategic priority as part of the 2014-2018 Top 8 Strategic Priorities.

The following Strategic Actions support this report:

- C.** Plan and design the Vision Georgetown community to be 'transit ready' and to foster active transportation.
- D.** Develop an Active Transportation Plan, prior to or as part of the Transportation Master Plan update, to support and encourage the use of all active modes of transportation.
- E.** Develop a long-term Truck Movement Strategy for the Town that respects the road maintenance and safety needs of Halton Hills.
- F.** Develop a Public Transit Strategy to address the needs of all potential users, prior to or as part of the Transportation Master Plan Update.
- G.** Continue to advocate for and protect the Town's long-term transportation and land use planning objectives through active participation in the GTA West Environmental Assessment process.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The various elements of the Transportation Strategy work plan outlined in this report have been included in the Town's Capital Budget and have been implemented at appropriate timeframes for each individual project.

CONSULTATION:

Staff internal to the department were consulted on the preparation of this report.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

As the various studies and work that forms the Transportation Strategy is completed, the appropriate public engagement for each project will be completed. This will include utilizing the Town's online engagement tool 'Let's Talk Halton Hills.'

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

The Town is committed to implementing our Community Sustainability Strategy, Imagine Halton Hills. Doing so will lead to a higher quality of life.

The recommendation outlined in this report advances the Strategy's implementation.

This report supports the Cultural Vibrancy, Economic Prosperity, Environmental Health, and Social Well-being pillars of Sustainability and in summary the alignment of this report with the Community Sustainability Strategy is excellent.

COMMUNICATIONS:

For all individual studies, the necessary public engagement will take place. The Let's Talk Halton Hills platform is being utilized to inform the public and seek feedback as necessary.

CONCLUSION:

The Town's Transportation Strategy refers to the various plans, policies, strategies, and documents that guide transportation in Halton Hills, and how they work together.

A number of actions from the 2011 TMP have been advanced and are nearing completion. Once these actions are completed, Town staff will be in a position to move forward with the update to the 2011 TMP which is tentatively scheduled to start in 2020.

The work completed as part of the Transit Service Strategy (2017), Trucking Strategy (2016), and Active Transportation Master Plan (2018), as well as other related plans, policies, and projects help form the transportation work plan and will feed into the Transportation Master Plan Update which is scheduled to commence in late 2020.

Reviewed and Approved by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maureen Van Ravens". The script is cursive and fluid.

Maureen Van Ravens, Manager of Transportation

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Mills". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial.

Chris Mills, Commissioner of Transportation and Public Works

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brent Marshall". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Brent Marshall, Chief Administrative Officer