

REPORT

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING

MEETING DATE: JULY 9, 2018

FROM: Ray Green, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: July 9, 2018

SUBJECT: Move Ontario 2020 Quick Wins Funds Proposed Candidate Project - Wyecroft Road Extension

LOCATION: Wyecroft Road between Bronte Road and Burloak Drive

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RECOMMENDATION:

1. The Regional Council be advised that the Town of Oakville supports the use of Move Ontario Quick Wins Funding to extend the Wyecroft Road Bridge.
2. That the Mayor be requested to write a letter to the Province conveying Oakville's commitment to the completion of the Wyecroft Bridge.
3. That the Regional Council be advised that the Town of Oakville supports the transfer of Wyecroft Road extension between Bronte Road and Burloak Drive and the incorporation of the construction into the 2019 Budget and Forecast.
4. That this report and resulting resolution be forwarded to the City of Burlington, Town of Milton and the Town of Halton Hills for information.

KEY FACTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- The Region of Halton had received Quick Wins funding of \$57.6 mil from the Ministry of Transportation under the Move Ontario 2020 Quick Wins Program. At that time a BRT corridor along Dundas Road through Oakville and Burlington was identified as the project to be funded.
- The Region and the local municipalities raised concerns with the priority of the Dundas BRT and initiated the Mobility Management Strategy in order to determine Halton's longer term region-wide inter/intra transportation network
- In 2017, the Mobility Management Strategy for Halton was completed with the support of all Halton municipal staff and the CAO's. Regional Council's approval of the strategy identified the Plains/Harvester/Wyecroft/Speers corridor as a "Transit Priority Corridor"

- In 2017, in part on the basis of this longer term Mobility Management Strategy, the Town of Oakville approved an Official Plan Amendment to establish an Urban Structure which identified the Wycroft/Speers corridor as a Transit Priority Corridor.
- In 2018, Metrolinx approved their Regional Transportation Plan which is to achieve strong connections throughout the Region, supporting a full travel experience and promoting sustainable and healthy communities. The construction of the Wycroft Bridge contributes to this goal by improving connections throughout Halton, supporting better access through the first and last mile and providing alternative means of travel for both persons and goods.
- Staff support the Region in applying the Move Ontario Quick Win funding to the Wycroft Bridge as it:
 - Allows for east/west connections for all modes of travel through Halton Region in keeping with the Metrolinx's Plans, Halton Mobility Management Strategy and the Town's Urban Structure.
 - Connections to the Bronte and Appleby GO stations are enhanced further improving the first and last mile connections supporting the Metrolinx Regional Transportation Plan and the Region's transportation planning
- No other project was identified by the Halton CAO's that would satisfy the 'Quick Win' criteria.

BACKGROUND:

In 2007, the Region applied for and obtained \$57.6 mil in Move Ontario Quick Win funding for the establishment of a BRT corridor along Dundas Street through Halton Region. More recently, the Province has indicated that the funding should be used or consideration may be given to funding other projects throughout the Metrolinx area. Halton, Burlington and Oakville staff have agreed that the funding of Dundas BRT corridor is not a current priority and as a result the Region, with the support of the local municipalities initiated the Mobility Management Strategy.

The Mobility Management Strategy identifies Plains/Harvester/Wycroft/Speers as a Transit Priority Corridor given it provides inter regional east west connections for all modes of travel. (Appendix A).

COMMENT/OPTIONS:

The Wycroft Road extension is an important link in the context of the region's transportation network in that it provides a needed linkage between Burlington and Oakville and helps facilitate connections to the existing Bronte GO station and Appleby GO station along the Lakeshore West line. The east-west flow in Halton

Region is constrained in this area by the Natural Heritage System as there are limited opportunities to cross the Bronte Creek.

The importance of this connection has been identified in the Regional Official Plan, Transportation Master Plan and the recently completed Mobility Management Strategy. As indicated above the corridor of Plains/Harvester/Wycroft/Speers is identified as a 'Transit Priority Corridor' providing for east west connection linking to the key north south corridors. These corridors not only carry personal vehicles, but they provide the opportunity for bus transit, cycling and pedestrian traffic.

The Town of Oakville has relied on these key transportation linkage to develop our recently adopted urban structure. The Town's urban structure emphasizes the significance of identifying and protecting key transportation linkages and corridors, both existing and planned for all travel modes. Specifically, the urban structure clearly establishes the need for enhanced connectivity to support a more sustainable transportation system and urban structure.

In addition, Wycroft Road is in close proximity to the Bronte GO Major Transit Station Area (MTSA) that will accommodate a significant amount of growth in the next 25 years, its development will improve access to the Bronte GO MTSA. The growth to be planned for the Bronte GO MTSA will, in part, rely on local transit connections that will benefit from enhanced access facilitated by this extension.

In context of Metrolinx's recently approved Regional Transportation Plan, this connection contributes to the goal of "Strong connections", specifically addressing the strategies of "Connect the Region" and "Optimize the system". As indicated above this connect is significantly lacking in the transportation network and will enable consideration of a higher level bus service providing improved accessibility to the Region and an alternative access to the GO stations in both Burlington and Oakville. This connection also contributes to the optimization of the transportation system by expanding the first and last mile choices in accessing major transit stations and enables local traffic to travel on the Regional arterial network, thereby optimizing highways for goods movement.

'Quick Win' funding criteria was focused on projects that would:

- Improve first mile/last mile connections to Major Transit Station Areas;
- Leverage current investment or service improvements by Metrolinx
- Address Station access or network connectivity, whether by transit or active transportation, and
- Be "design ready" wherein Provincial Environment Assessment requirements have been addressed

The Wycroft Extension achieves each of these criteria:

- The proximity of the Bronte GO station identified as a Major Transit Station Area is enhanced with increased accessibility. Access to both work and home is increased with easier access to the Bronte GO.
- The Bronte GO station is on the Lakeshore West GO line which will be served by the RER increased service. The Wycroft extension provides accessibility to more businesses and residents leverage access to GO services.
- Network connectivity is achieved with the Wycroft extension as intended by the many transportation plans approved by the Region and the Town of Oakville
- The Wycroft Extension has been approved in an EA and would fulfil the “design ready” criteria.

Staff recommend that Council support the Region in selecting the Wycroft extension as the ‘Quick Win’ project and commit to build the extension in their 2019 Budget and Forecast. In addition, given the role of the connection, staff are supportive of the Region taking ownership of this section at this time and would expect to discuss the future of the balance of the corridor at the next Road Rationalization program.

CONSIDERATIONS:

(A) PUBLIC

The public have been consulted throughout the EA process. No further consultation is required related to this report.

(B) FINANCIAL

The Wycroft Road extension between Bronte Road and Burloak Drive is included in the 2018 Development Charges Background Study at a cost of \$60 million with \$9 million identified as post period. The project is 100% growth related and is currently scheduled to begin in 2030.

Should Regional Council approve the project and include it in their 2019 Budget and Forecast there would be no change to the town’s current Development Charge By-law. The Development Charges Act does not require us to update the study should there be a change to the projects identified in the Background Study. It is not unusual for projects to be delayed, construction and cost changes or unexpected grant funding. These changes would then be incorporated into the next update. In this

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case, the project would be removed from the capital forecast and not included in the next update to the Development Charges By-law.

(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS

Finance, Engineering and Construction and Planning Services were consulted in the preparation of this report

(D) CORPORATE AND/OR DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC GOALS

This report addresses the corporate strategic goal to:
the most livable town in Canada.

(E) COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY

The funding of Wycroft would implement our community sustainability goals.

APPENDICES:

Appendix A - Map

Submitted by:
Ray Green, CAO

APPENDIX A



November 2016

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF HALTON ITS EMPLOYEES, OFFICERS, AND AGENTS ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ERRORS, OMISSIONS OR INACCURACIES, WHETHER DUE TO THEIR NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE.
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TRANSIT PRIORITY MOBILITY NETWORK TO 2041

Legend

- Commuter Lot
- GO Rail Station
- Future GO Rail Station
- GO Rail Line
- Proposed GO Rail Line
- Regional Road
- Road
- Highway
- Urban Area
- ▭ Municipal Boundary
- Regional Transit Node
- Proposed Transit Node
- Proposed Major Arterial Roadway
- Transit Priority Corridor
- Mobility Link (i.e. Local Service Connecting Municipalities)
- ▶ External Transit Connection
- ◆ External Transit Terminal

