

## Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program Policy

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Approved By: Regional Council

Approved On: November 21, 2019

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### Policy Statement

The Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program policy sets out the criteria, conditions and review process for establishing cost-sharing agreements between local municipalities and the York Region for the construction of locally initiated streetscape designs within the Region's right-of-way.

### Application

This policy applies to requests by local municipalities to cost-share with the Region in constructing locally initiated streetscape designs within the Region's road right-of-way.

### Purpose

To provide a framework for the Region to consider a local municipality's request to cost-share in the construction of a locally initiated streetscape design within the Region's road right-of-way.

### Definitions

**Capital Plan:** The roads construction plan, also known as the 10-Year Roads and Transit Capital Construction Program, is a program of planned road and transit improvements to accommodate population and employment growth in York Region and to upgrade existing roads to meet Regional design standards.

**Capital Project:** Any new construction, expansion, rehabilitation, or replacement project that improves or maintains a Region infrastructure asset.

**Local Municipality:** Municipalities located within The Regional Municipality of York, including the Town of Aurora, Town of East Gwillimbury, Town of Georgina, Township of King, City of Markham, Town of Newmarket, City of Richmond Hill, City of Vaughan and Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

**Streetscape Design:** Projects that create distinctive street character through the comprehensive and detailed design of medians, boulevards, lighting, tree planting, street furniture, public art, and any other related element that contributes to street users' safety and comfort.

**Streetscape Review Team:** Regional staff from areas relevant to streetscape design who are appointed to review, evaluate and approve streetscape applications.

## Description

The Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program offers local municipalities the opportunity to cost-share on the construction of locally initiated streetscape designs that are within the Region's right-of-way.

Regional Council has allocated a minimum of \$1,000,000 annually for this program.

Streetscapes shall support the Region's goal to enhance its urban structure through city-building, intensification and the development of compact and complete communities, by:

- Connecting major transit and transportation infrastructure with the local community by using accessible and pedestrian-friendly design; and
- Promoting active transportation through the creation of safe and attractive public spaces within the Region's right-of-way.

The development of attractive and functional streetscapes will contribute to achieving a number of the Region's strategic goals:

### Vision 2051

- A place where everyone can thrive in an environment that fosters healthy living; is safe, accessible, inclusive and supportive.
- A diverse urban form that provides a variety of interesting and exciting places to live, work and play. Communities are people-first and designed for healthy, active living and social inclusion, and are the heart of business, arts and culture, community life and services.

- A seamless network for mobility that provides accessibility to all destinations using diverse transportation options for people in all communities, promotes active and healthy living and safely and efficiently moves people and goods.
- Sustainability that can be practiced in everyday life through climate resiliency, innovative water conservation and re-use, water resource protection, waste reduction, energy conservation and greenhouse gas reduction.

### **York Region Official Plan**

- To improve the health and well-being of residents and workers in the Region by planning and developing sustainable active communities.
- To create a competitive and flexible economic environment that encourages investment and a diversity of employment opportunities.
- To enhance the Region's urban structure through city building, intensification, and compact and complete communities.
- To provide the services required to support the Region's residents and businesses to 2031 and beyond, in a sustainable manner.
- To continuously engage and partner with communities, stakeholders and other levels of government.

## **Responsibilities**

### **Commissioner, Transportation Services**

- Apply the eligibility criteria for final approval of the proposed streetscape design.
- Authority to release funds for proposals which have been approved by the Streetscape Review Team.
- Report to Council annually on approved contributions.

### **Program Manager, Streetscape, Transportation Services**

- Administer and deliver the Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program.
- Lead function in relation to all Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program activities with the local municipalities and within York Region.

### **Local Municipalities**

- Complete and submit required documents by the established deadlines.

- Provide a letter of commitment of maintenance obligations with the acknowledgement that the local municipality is required to submit a signed Maintenance Agreement at the Final Design Submission Stage.
- Communicate with the Program Manager - Streetscape and Project Manager- Capital Planning and Delivery (where applicable) on the design and construction scheduling of the approved streetscape design.
- Revise the proposed streetscape design as required by the Program Manager – Streetscape and/ or the Streetscape Review Team.
- Comply with agreements made as a condition of approval under this policy.

### **Streetscape Review Team**

- Evaluate applications using Regional plans, policies, guidelines, design and safety standards.
- Provide constructive comments that demonstrate collaboration with local municipalities during the application review process.

## **Compliance**

### **Application**

A local municipality that applies to this program must ensure its application meets the eligibility criteria and conditions set out in this policy, its associated application guidelines and any additional program documents or other applicable requirements as amended.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

1. The Preliminary and Final Design submissions must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. on the application deadline. Late submissions will only be considered should exceptional circumstances arise otherwise the applicant will be encouraged to apply for the following year.
2. The Preliminary Design application must be accompanied by a letter of commitment of maintenance obligations by the local municipality with the acknowledgement that the applicant is required to submit a signed Maintenance Agreement at the Final Design Submission stage.
3. The proposed streetscape design must be located within the Region's right-of-way.

4. The proposed streetscape design must support relevant objectives and goals included in:
  - York Region Vision 2051 Strategic Plan
  - York Region Official Plan
5. The proposed streetscape design must meet Regional design and safety standards.
6. The application must be accompanied by evidence that the applicant's Council has approved the cost-sharing and responsibility for the maintenance, repair and replacement of the proposed streetscape design.
7. The application must be supported by local-Council endorsed studies, plans and/or guidelines that provide a vision for the local community where the proposed streetscape design would be located.
8. Approved funding must be spent within three years from the date of award. After this date, incomplete projects will require an applicant to resubmit to York Region for funding consideration.

### **Eligible Costs**

The following items are eligible for cost-sharing:

1. Capital construction costs
2. Cost of preparing tender documents

The following items are not eligible for cost-sharing:

1. Property acquisition
2. Escalation, upfront financing, interest charges, contract change allowances, contract administration charges, insurance and bonding
3. Mobilization and demobilization costs, construction staging, site survey, soil testing
4. Standard municipal sidewalks and lighting with the Region's road right-of-way
5. Ongoing maintenance during the course of operations
6. Repair or replacement during the course of operations
7. Temporary or seasonal enhancements, including landscaping

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## Region Contribution

1. Acceptance of applications is subject to the availability of funding.
2. Applications will be evaluated by the Streetscape Review Team.
3. The Region will contribute 50% funding on eligible costs towards qualifying applications that will be completed with a Region Capital project. The Region will contribute 33% funding on eligible costs towards qualifying applications that will not be completed with a Region Capital project
4. The Region will not provide additional funding amounts in excess of the approved final cost estimate.

## Reference

None

## Contact

Program Manager, Streetscape, Transportation Services, x75272

## Approval

Council Date: November 21, 2019	Committee Date: November 7, 2019
Council Minute Item: G.1	Committee Minute Item: E.2.3

Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.

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