



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### Official Plan Amendment for Scarborough Rapid Transit (SRT) Extension– Request for Direction

<b>Date:</b>	June 5, 2008
<b>To:</b>	Planning and Growth Management Committee
<b>From:</b>	Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning Division
<b>Wards:</b>	Ward No. 38 Scarborough Centre and Ward No. 42 - Scarborough-Rouge River
<b>Reference Number:</b>	Pg080034 08 158603 CPS 00 OZ

#### SUMMARY

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On March 21, 2007 the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) endorsed a light rail transit plan for the City of Toronto which included seven projects across the City and subsequently initiated environmental assessment studies for those projects, as well as one for the Scarborough Rapid Transit (SRT) extension to Malvern.

The Official Plan, Map 4 Higher Order Transit Corridors, identifies a higher order transit corridor from the existing terminus of the SRT at McCowan Road eastward to Markham Road and north on Markham Road to Steeles Avenue.

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's authorization for the preparation of a City-initiated Official Plan Amendment to amend Map 4 of the Official Plan to reflect the recommended route for the extension of the SRT north of Sheppard Avenue to Malvern as a high order transit corridor, to be determined through the environmental assessment study process.

The official plan amendment would enable construction of the project to commence in a timely manner upon approval of the environmental assessment study and procurement of funding.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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### **The City Planning Division recommends that:**

1. Staff be directed to prepare a draft official plan amendment to reflect the recommended extension of the Scarborough Rapid Transit to Malvern north of Sheppard Avenue as a high order transit corridor, as determined by the environmental assessment study, on Map 4 of the Official Plan, to be considered at a public meeting of the Planning and Growth Management Committee; and
2. Notice for the public meeting under the Planning Act be given according to the regulations under the Planning Act.

### **Financial Impact**

The recommendations in this report have no financial impact.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

At its meeting on March 21, 2007 the Toronto Transit Commission endorsed the Toronto Transit City – Light Rail Plan as the basis and priority for rapid transit expansion within the City. The environmental assessment studies for Transit City projects, including one for the extension of the SRT, were initiated subsequently. An environmental assessment was approved in 1994 for the extension of the SRT from its existing terminus at McCowan Road to the Markham Road-Sheppard Avenue area.

The current environmental assessment process for the SRT extension includes an amendment to the 1994 approved environmental assessment and a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for an extension from Sheppard Avenue to Malvern.

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

### **Provincial Policy Statement and Provincial Plans**

The Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) provides policy direction on matters of provincial interest related to land use planning and development. The PPS sets the policy foundation for regulating the development and use of land. The key objectives include: building strong communities; wise use and management of resources; and, protecting public health and safety. City Council's planning decisions are required to be consistent with the PPS.

The Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe provides a framework for managing growth in the Greater Golden Horseshoe including: directions for where and how to grow; the provision of infrastructure to support growth; and protecting natural systems and cultivating a culture of conservation.

City Council's planning decisions are required by the Planning Act to conform, or not conflict, with the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

### **Official Plan**

The Official Plan, Map 4 Higher Order Transit Corridors, includes a transit corridor from the existing terminus of the SRT at McCowan Road eastward to Markham Road and north on Markham Road to Steeles Avenue.

The Implementation section of the Official Plan contains a policy 5.3.1.1 which states that all public works should conform to the Official Plan. This is in line with the Planning Act (R.S.O. 1990) Section 24 which states that where an official plan is in effect, no public works shall be undertaken that does not conform to the Plan. Therefore an amendment to the Plan is necessary to allow for the possibility of the transit line extending from Sheppard Avenue to Malvern.

### **COMMENTS**

#### **Provincial Policy Statement and Provincial Plans**

The proposed official plan amendment would be consistent with the PPS and would not conflict with the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

### **Official Plan**

In order for the SRT extension, from Sheppard Avenue to Malvern, to be constructed, the Official Plan would need to be amended to address its Policy 5.3.1.1 and the Planning Act (R.S.O. 1990) Section 24 requirement for public works to conform to an official plan in effect. Therefore the amendment is necessary to allow for the possibility of the SRT extension from Sheppard Avenue to Malvern.

## **Environmental Assessment Study**

A Transit Class Environmental Assessment Study was commenced for the project in early 2008. The first public consultation took place on April 15, 2008 and the second round of consultation took place on June 4 and 5, 2008 for which the notices for the meetings identified the need for an official plan amendment. The public consultations meet the Planning Act requirements as well as those of the Environment Assessment Act.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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