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Town of Aurora  
**Committee of the Whole Report**  
No. PDS24-067

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**Subject:** Request for Increased Capital Budget Authority for Capital Project GN0163– Design of Active Transportation Facilities- Yonge Street: Bloomington Road to Rail Bridge

**Prepared by:** Michael Ha, Transportation and Traffic Analyst

**Department:** Planning and Development Services

**Date:** July 2, 2024

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## Recommendation

1. That Report No. PDS24-067 be received; and
2. That the total approved budget authority for Capital Project No. GN0163 be increased to \$ 329,200, representing an increase of \$129,200; and
3. That \$20,000 in previously approved capital budget authority for Project No. GN0056 and its associated funding be transferred to Project No. GN0163; and
4. That the remaining proposed budget authority increase of \$109,200 for Project No. GN0163 be funded with \$98,300 from Roads & Related development charges and \$10,900 from the Growth & New reserve.

## Executive Summary

The intent of this report is to seek Council's approval of an increase to a previously approved capital budget authority for Capital Project No. GN0163, the design for the Yonge Street active transportation facilities between Bloomington Road and the Metrolinx rail bridge (Attachment 1).

- The proposed Yonge Street active transportation facilities will form a major north-south link in the Town for pedestrians and cyclists. It will provide connections between other active transportation systems including the multi-use path on Bloomington Road and the bicycle facilities on Industrial Parkway South.

The design of these facilities currently has an approved budget authority of \$200,000.

- Various factors, including increased inflation rates and increased labour prices have resulted in significant increases to design costs.

## Background

Capital Project No. GN0163, the design of Yonge Street active transportation facilities between Bloomington Road and the Metrolinx rail bridge was included in the Town's 10 Year Capital Plan which is consistent with the recommendations from the Town's Active Transportation Master Plan. The scope of work for this design includes a combination of both a multi use path and/or sidewalk on both sides of the of Yonge Street.

**The proposed Yonge Street active transportation facilities will form a major north-south link in the Town for pedestrians and cyclists. It will provide connections between other active transportation systems including the multi-use path on Bloomington Road and the bicycle facilities on Industrial Parkway South. The design of these facilities currently has an approved budget authority of \$200,000.**

Currently, active transportation facilities are not provided along the subject section of Yonge Street. Cyclists share the road with motorists without dedicated and separated facilities and pedestrians are using the shoulder of the road to access services and amenities north of this area. The construction of active transportation facilities will increase safety for all road users.

## Analysis

**Various factors, including increased inflation rates and increased labour prices have resulted in significant increases to design costs.**

Significant increases in the cost of consulting and contractor services have been observed over the past several years due to numerous factors including higher inflation rates and increased price of labour. Consequently, the bids submitted for this project have exceeded the projected market average. The lowest compliant bid is higher than originally estimated during the budget forecasting process. This project's updated estimated requirements, which include the lowest compliant bid submitted to the Town for the work to be performed are summarized in Table 1.

The period of validity (for which Bids are irrevocable) for the RFP, is ninety (90) days from the Bid Closing Date. The RFP closed on April 29, 2024 and the period of validity ends on July 28, 2024.

Table 1  
Updated Estimated Requirements for Capital Project No. GN01636

Description	Amount
<b>Approved Capital Budget Authority (GN0163)</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>
Subject Contract Award excluding HST	\$323,490
Non-refundable taxes (1.76%)	\$5,693.42
<b>Total Remaining Project Requirement (Rounded)</b>	<b>\$129,200</b>

The project will explore cost-sharing opportunities via partnerships including the York Region Pedestrian and Cycling Partnership Program (PCPP). The PCPP funding is subject to Regional Council review and approval and is based on the municipality demonstrating their project's contribution to the Region's network of walking and cycling infrastructure. In order to be considered for Regional funding consideration, applications including design and a cost estimate of construction must be submitted by September 15, 2024.

## Legal Considerations

Pursuant to the Town's Procurement By-law, Town Staff is authorized to award and execute any related agreement with respect to any procurement, provided that the budget required for such Contract award has been approved by Council. The procurement process with respect to this project yielded bids that were all above the approved budget. Consequently, Council approval is required to increase the project budget for staff to be able to award the project to a compliant bidder.

## Financial Implications

Total budget authority of \$200,000 for Project No. GN0165 was included as part of the Town's adopted 2024 capital budget. As outlined above in Table 1, it is anticipated that this project's total design requirements will exceed its current approved budget authority by approximately \$129,200. Therefore, it is recommended that this project's total budget authority be increased to \$329,200, representing an increase of \$129,200.

It is recommended that a portion of the proposed budget authority increase be addressed through the transfer of \$20,000 of available budget authority and associated

funding from Project No. GN0056, as permitted under the Town's Delegation by-law, which allows for the increase of a project's budget authority by up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the original approved amount through the transfer of available authority from another similarly funded project.

Further, it is recommended that the remaining proposed budget authority of \$109,200 be funded by \$98,300 in Roads & Related development charges and \$10,900 from the Growth & New reserve as per the Town's recently endorsed 2024 DC Study.

### **Communications Considerations**

Staff in partnership with the Town's project consultant will engage the public broadly in the design process through updates on the Town website and through Public Information Sessions.

### **Climate Change Considerations**

According to the 2020 Community Energy Plan, the transportation sector accounts for approximately 37 per cent of the total greenhouse gas emissions, and the major contributor (approximately 99 per cent) are from personal vehicles.

The construction of the proposed active transportation facilities is consistent with the objective of the Town's Active Transportation Master Plan to provide a safe, convenient, well-connected, and accessible active transportation network to help reduce reliance on personal vehicles. The use of active transportation can help reduce air and water pollutants, and green house gas emissions.

The Town's Climate Change Adaptation Plan identifies climate change related risks and mitigation measures for active transportation infrastructure such as loss of access due to flooding from extreme short duration precipitation and heaving from freeze-thaw cycles.

The design of the proposed active transportation facilities will support the goals under Town's Climate Change Adaptation Plan by taking into consideration mitigation measures related to these climate change related risks.

## **Link to Strategic Plan**

This project supports the Strategic Plan goal of Supporting an Exceptional Quality of Life for All through the following items:

- Improving transportation, mobility, and connectivity
- Investing in sustainable infrastructure
- Encouraging an active and healthy lifestyle

## **Alternative(s) to the Recommendation**

1. That Council provide direction.

## **Conclusions**

The proposed Yonge Street active transportation facilities will form a major north-south link in the Town for pedestrians and cyclists. It will provide connections between other active transportation systems including the multi-use path on Bloomington Road and the bicycle facilities on Industrial Parkway South. The design of these facilities currently has an approved budget authority of \$200,000.

It is anticipated that this project's total requirements will exceed its currently approved budget authority of \$200,000 by approximately \$129,185. It is recommended that this project's total budget authority be increased to \$329,185, representing an increase of \$129,185. Furthermore, it is recommended that a portion of this additional required budget authority (\$20,000) be funded through a transfer of previously approved budget authority from capital project No. GN0033.

## **Attachments**

Attachment 1 – Project Limits of Proposed Active Transportation Facilities on Yonge Street

## **Previous Reports**

N/A

## **Pre-submission Review**

Agenda Management Team review on June 12, 2024

## **Approvals**

**Approved by Marco Ramunno, Director, Planning and Development Services**

**Approved by Doug Nadorozny, Chief Administrative Officer**