



COUNCILLOR

Reid McAlpine

UNIONVILLE WARD 3

NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2020

It is my pleasure to wish you a very Happy New Year. Over the past year as councillor, I have met many wonderful people who work tirelessly to make Markham a better place. I am humbled by the opportunity to represent all of you as we enter a new decade.

Value for Taxes

On December 10 Council approved the 2020 budget after a series of ten half-day budget committee meetings. The initial proposal for a 2.20% tax increase was revised to 1.95%, including a 0.50% contribution to our 25-Year Life-Cycle Reserve. This fund is maintained at a level sufficient to maintain all the City's assets, such as roads and community centres, for the next 25 years. We remain one of the lowest-taxed municipalities in the GTA. For more information please visit markham.ca/budget.

2020 – 2023 Strategic Plan for Markham

Building Markham's Future Together is the name of The City of Markham's strategic plan for 2020-2023. Every city initiative over the next 4 years, including our annual budget, will be built on the foundation of this plan. Thanks to all the residents who participated in the consultation process in 2019.

The strategic plan focuses on four goals:

- Exceptional Services by Exceptional People
- Engaged, Diverse, Thriving & Vibrant City
- Safe, Sustainable & Complete Community
- Stewardship of Money & Resources

For action plans related to each goal, visit markham.ca.

Safe Drinking Water

You can be assured that Markham water is safe and is tested regularly for lead and other contaminants. There are no lead public service lines in the City of Markham. Samples are taken twice a year throughout the city and tested for lead according to regulations outlined by the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks. You can do the environment and your bank account a favour by avoiding bottled water and drinking safe fresh Markham tap water!



Snow Windrow Removal Assistance Program

A snow windrow is the pile of snow that is left at the end of a driveway after a plow has cleared the street. If you are over 60 or disabled, with no one in the house under 60, you are eligible to have one car width of your windrow cleared for you. Currently about 5,100 homes in the city take advantage of the service. To apply to have your windrow cleared, please contact me.

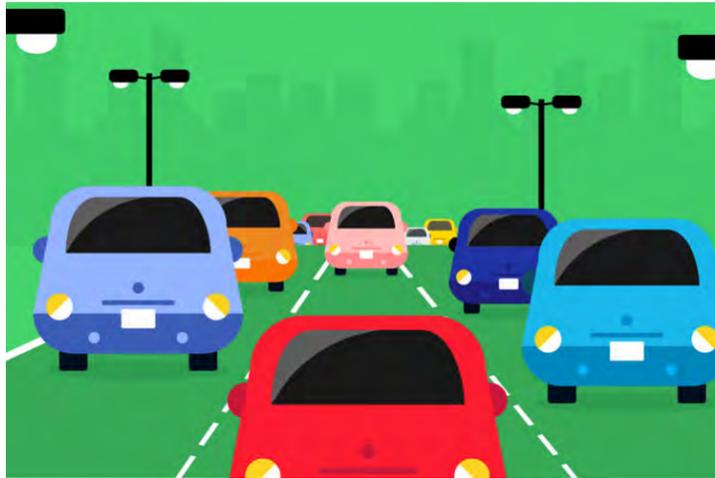


Transit

GO service now features off-peak trains on weekdays and all-day hourly trains on weekends, to and from Union Station all the way to Mount Joy. Horns at most of the level crossings in Ward 3 have finally been silenced, though those living near McCowan Road continue to suffer. Metrolinx still has some work to complete there and the City is pressuring them to complete it as soon as possible. Next, electrification and twinning of the tracks! I will let you know as soon as I know more.

Here to Help! Have a question, comment or concern?
Want to receive Reid's monthly digital newsletter?
Contact Reid at rmcalpine@markham.ca or (905) 948-5103





What's the best way to tackle traffic congestion on our major York Region roads?

York Region is conducting environmental assessment studies on three major roads that pass through Ward 3. Planning and consultation are under way to widen Kennedy Rd, McCowan Rd and 16th Ave. York Region has held open houses on the topic as recently as early December. Markham City Council will be getting its own education on road widening at a public committee meeting on January 22 at 9 am in the Council Chamber.

Kennedy Road

Open houses for improvements to Kennedy Rd were held in late November and early December 2019. The recommended design features:

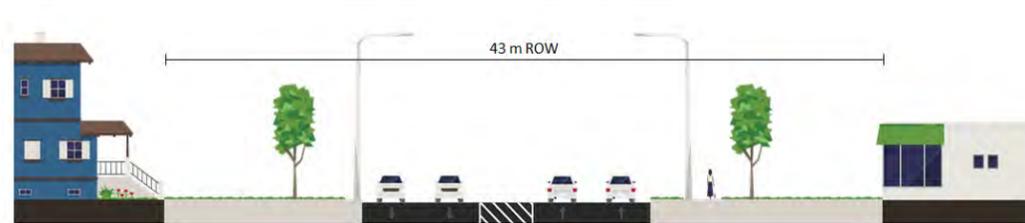
- Widening to six lanes from Steeles Ave. to Major Mackenzie Dr., with the new lanes dedicated to public transit and high-occupancy vehicles (HOV).
- Multi-use paths on either side of the road for cyclists and pedestrians.
- Bridge reconstruction over the Rouge River between Highway 7 and Austin Dr.
- New bridges over the 407 to accommodate cyclists and pedestrians.
- The replacement of the freight rail overpass between the 407 and 14th Ave.
- Streetscaping.

The final study report should be completed in early 2020. Phase 1 from 14th Ave. to Highway 7 could commence in 2023.

Regional Road Cross Section Options

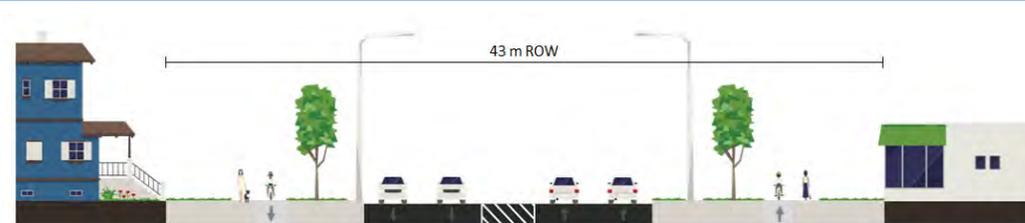
Do Nothing:

Maintain existing conditions, including the number of lanes, discontinuous sidewalks, and no dedicated cycling facilities



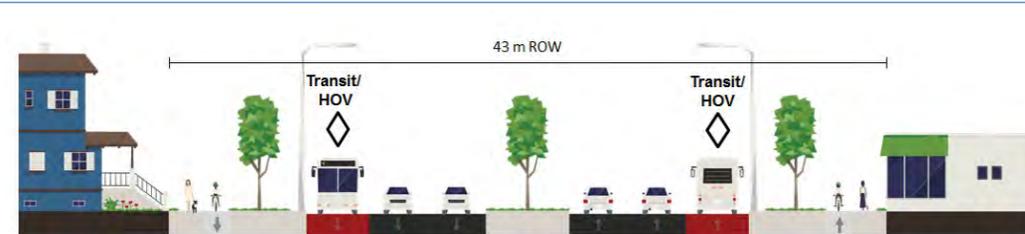
Active Transportation (AT) Improvements:

Provide continuous cycling and pedestrian facilities (details and location within the boulevard to be confirmed)



Widen for Transit/HOV and AT Improvements:

Widen to 6 lanes and provide continuous cycling and pedestrian facilities (details and location within the boulevard to be confirmed); curb lanes are for Transit and High Occupancy Vehicles (HOV)



16th Avenue

An environmental assessment report for the stretch of 16th Ave. from Woodbine to York-Durham Line will be released very soon. The latest preferred solution presented by York Region includes:

- Widening to six lanes from Yonge St. to McCowan Rd. with the new lanes dedicated to public transit and high-occupancy vehicles (HOV).
- Separated cycling paths and pedestrian sidewalks on either side of the road.
- Streetscaping.

Some time after January 22, Markham Council will vote on whether to ask York Region to accelerate the work on 16th.

McCowan Road

The latest open house for the McCowan Rd. project was held on May 2, 2019. The recommended design features:

- Widening to six lanes from Steeles Ave. to Major Mackenzie Dr., with the new lanes dedicated to public transit and high-occupancy vehicles (HOV).
- Separated cycling paths and pedestrian sidewalks on either side of the road.
- Underpass construction at GO rail crossing next to Centennial GO Station.
- Bridge reconstruction over the Rouge River between Highway 7 and South Unionville Ave.
- New bridges over the 407 to accommodate cyclists and pedestrians.
- Streetscaping.

Phase 1 from 14th Ave. to Highway 7 could commence in 2026. If you have missed an open house and would like to have the most up to date information, visit the Transportation section of york.ca.

Have Your Say!

Anyone with concerns about any of these Environmental Assessments has 60 days after each final report to submit an application for a "Part II Order" to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. You can also let our Mayor and Councillors know what you think. Final reports will be published on york.ca.

What's Happening in Markham and Unionville! It doesn't get much better!



Chinese New Year



Black History Month

Chinese New Year
January 25, 2020

Black History Month
February, 2020

10,000 Trees Spring Planting
May 3, 2020
www.10000trees.com



Thursday Night at the Bandstand



51st Unionville Festival

Thursday Nights at the Bandstand
May to August, 2020
Main Street Unionville
www.unionvillepresents.com

51st Unionville Festival
June 6, 2020
www.unionvillefestival.com



The Markham Pan Am Centre



Flato Markham Theatre

The Markham Pan Am Centre -
World-class sporting events almost every weekend
markhampanamcentre.ca

Flato Markham Theatre
Check out the 2019/2020 season. markham.ca

Varley Art Gallery
World class contemporary art FREE
ADMISSION, plus classes for all ages.
markham.ca



Varley Art Gallery



Markham Museum

Markham Museum
Explore life in Markham in years past.
markham.ca

For a more complete listing of events, summer camps and other activities be sure to visit Markham Life (online at markham.ca) and the City page in the Economist and Sun.

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