

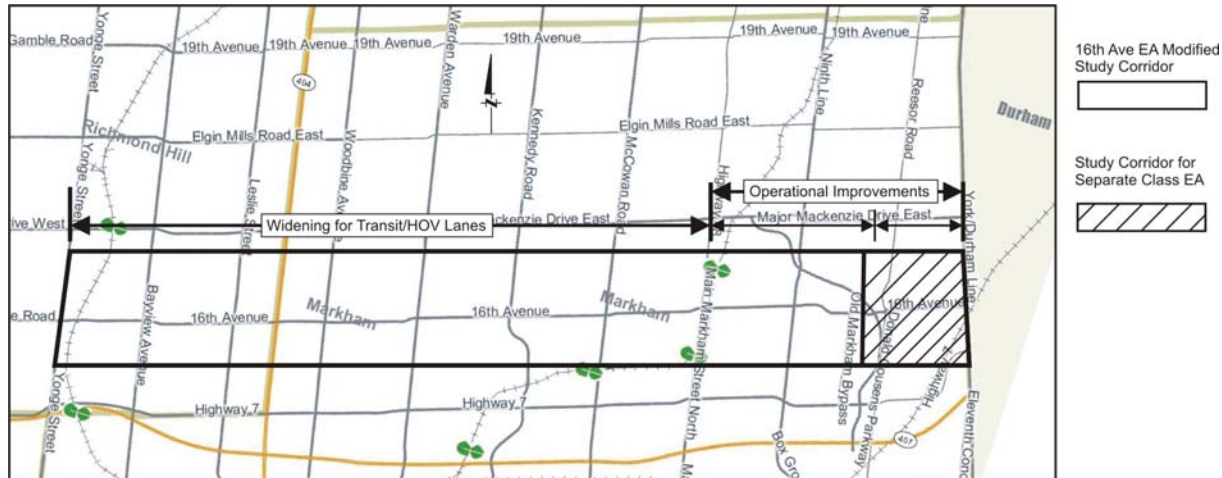


The Regional Municipality of York

NOTICE OF SEPARATION OF CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Class Environmental Assessment Study 16th Avenue (Y.R. 73), Yonge Street to York-Durham Line Towns of Richmond Hill and Markham

The purpose of this notice is to announce the separation of the 16th Avenue Yonge Street to York Durham Line Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) into two Class EAs. The first Class EA will focus on the section of 16th Avenue from Yonge Street to Donald Cousens Parkway and the second Class EA will focus on the section of 16th Avenue from Donald Cousens Parkway to the York-Durham Line. The reasons for this change are set out below.



Since 2005, The Regional Municipality of York has been undertaking a Class EA study to determine future road needs and improvements for 16th Avenue between Yonge Street and the York-Durham Line, in the Towns of Richmond Hill and Markham. The study is being carried out in accordance with the process for a Schedule 'C' project, as outlined in the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (October 2000 as amended in 2007).

In May 2007, the preferred alternative solutions (Phase 2) for the study were presented at the second set of Public Consultation Centres (PCC). The preferred planning alternatives were identified as:

- Widening for Transit/HOV from Yonge Street to Main Street/Highway 48
- Operational Improvements from Main Street/Highway 48 to the Donald Cousens Parkway
- Operational Improvements from the Donald Cousens Parkway to the York-Durham Line, eliminate the jog at Reesor Road and replace the deteriorated bridge over the Little Rouge Creek

Following these PCCs, Phase 3 (Design Alternatives) of the Class EA process was initiated.

In early 2008, the Town of Markham requested that York Region review the need for all 6-lane Transit Supportive Projects within the Town of Markham. York Region, with Town staff and Councillors, has been holding Public Information Forums to evaluate alternative solutions in a broader context to manage congestion and accommodate planned growth. York Region is currently undertaking additional consultation and EA work on the 16th Avenue Class EA and all other Transit Supportive Projects in the Town of Markham to better evaluate and resolve the Town's request, prior to finalizing Phase 3 (Design Alternatives) of the on-going Class EA.

Based on the findings of the Needs and Justification analyses for the 16th Avenue Class EA, improvements to 16th Avenue between the Donald Cousens Parkway and the York-Durham Line (identified above) are required shortly. Based on these needs and since the Transit Supportive Projects study will require several months to complete, the Region intends to separate the assessment of this section of 16th Avenue from the 16th Avenue Class EA and complete it as a separate Schedule 'C' Class EA. The 16th Avenue Class EA for the 6-lane widening for transit supportive improvements between Yonge Street and Highway 48, and operational improvements to the section between Highway 48 and Donald Cousens Parkway will resume once the request from the Town of Markham has been resolved.

Anyone with an interest in this study is welcome to provide input. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record. If you have any questions or comments, please contact one of the individuals below:

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Project website: www.york.ca under News and Information Heading, click on the 16th Avenue Roads EA link. For Transit Supportive Roads, click on Transit Supportive Roads – Transportation for Today and Tomorrow.

Bill Fisch
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York Region Chairman and CEO
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Thank you for your participation in this study.

This notice issued 27 November 2008.