

Input gathered for King's transportation master plan

By Mark Pavilons

Residents had the chance to provide input last week into King's future with regards to transportation issues.

Three public information drop-in sessions were held to explain the purpose of the study and garner public insights and suggestions.

The Township's consultant (WSP/Canada Inc.) and engineering and planning staff were on hand to field questions from residents.

According to Rob Flindall, director of engineering and public works, at this point they are presenting the first stages of the Master Plan process, as per the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for Master Plans, where they present the existing conditions and seek input from the public regarding the future state of transportation in the Township before proceeding to recommendations.

A second public meeting will then be held to seek further input on the future state and recommendations.

The TMP study will guide the development of King's long-term transportation vision for the next 20 years. It reflects the

Township's desire to develop a sustainable transportation system with a strong focus on efficient use of existing infrastructure, transit, active transportation.

King is pegged to grow by roughly 14,600 residents and 4,800 jobs by 2031, under targets set out in the provincial Growth Plan.

Planning for this growth is essential to ensure future residents enjoy the quality of life that is evident in King. This study will establish a transportation planning framework and requirements to accommodate the growth and contribute to the update of transportation policies in the official plan, a review of which is currently under way.

During a special council meeting in November to collect input into King's official plan review, some transportation issues emerged.

It was generally recommended that new provincial transportation corridors be located outside of King. Comments received opposes the GTA West Corridor or any additional Highway 400 interchanges within the municipality.

Traffic calming and King's street network design should consider the volume of traffic through King.

Mike Cole, manager of engineering at the Township, said roughly three dozen residents attended the three public sessions, providing comments. The main concerns expressed by citizens include traffic volumes, speed, sidewalks, bike lanes and truck traffic along King Road.

WSP/Canada Inc. is gathering information and feedback, looking at transit options and traffic flow to help develop a sustainable transportation network.

The consultants will then come up with potential solutions and ideas to meet the objectives of the plan. Cole said this will likely happen by spring, followed by another series of public sessions. A report back to staff is anticipated by June.

Residents can still submit their comments. You can send them to Mehemed Delibasic with WSP, 905-465-8727, ext. 18329 or Mehemed.Delibasic@wspgroup.com. You can also send them to Cole at mcole@king.ca.