

**Victoria Square Boulevard Improvements, Woodbine Avenue (north connection) to Woodbine Avenue (south connection) – City of Markham**

**Municipal Class Environmental Assessment**

Minister’s Review of Issues Raised by Requester

Issue	Response and Analysis
<p>The project will impact streetscaping designs for the Cathedral of Transfiguration plaza development.</p>	<p>The City considered how the project could align with the design of the Cathedral of Transfiguration plaza development during the Class Environmental Assessment.</p> <p>The preferred design considered the developer of Cathedraltown’s ‘Cathedral Community Design Plan’, a cultural heritage related planning document that outlines the vision for the Cathedraltown community. The Cathedral Community Design Plan provides direction with respect to landscaping and streetscape designs and includes sections related to the movement of pedestrians in the community. The project considers the Cathedral Community Design Plan by providing continuous pedestrian and cycling facilities throughout the project area and overall connectivity of the community. The streetscaping design along the section of Victoria Square Boulevard that runs adjacent to the Cathedral of Transfiguration plaza aligns with the approved Cathedral Community Design Plan.</p> <p>The preferred roadway design for the Cathedral Residential and Cathedral Precinct Areas is comprised of multi-use paths for pedestrians and cyclists on both east and west sides of the road allowing existing pedestrian infrastructure to be preserved and integrated into the final project design. Landscaping zones on each side of the right of way are included in the preferred cross-section and a streetscaping plan will be coordinated with Cathedraltown developers and City staff during the detail design phase of the project.</p> <p>I am satisfied that the City considered Cathedraltown’s Community Design Plan as part of the Class Environmental Assessment.</p>

Issue	Response and Analysis
<p data-bbox="188 226 584 552">Cultural heritage and potential impacts to built heritage resources (Cathedraltown, Cathedral of Transfiguration, and the Cathedral Ceremonial Route) were not adequately addressed in the project's environmental study report.</p> <p data-bbox="188 590 584 821">The Heritage Impact Assessment does not mention the Cathedral of Transfiguration's inclusion in the Places of Worship Inventory by the Ontario Heritage Trust.</p>	<p data-bbox="617 226 1425 369">The City considered heritage resources in the cultural heritage assessment report and a heritage impact assessment report for the project as part of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process.</p> <p data-bbox="617 407 1425 772">The class environmental assessment determined that there is no risk of direct or indirect negative impacts to Cathedraltown or the Cathedral of Transfiguration as a result of the proposed project. The Victoria Square Boulevard roadway improvements will be constructed within the existing roadway and will not impact the identified ceremonial route leading to the Cathedral of Transfiguration. The project study area adjacent to Cathedraltown will be maintained in accordance with the Cathedral Community Design Plan.</p> <p data-bbox="617 810 1425 1356">The Victoria Square Boulevard class environmental assessment was divided into six distinct areas based on the Victoria Square Heritage Conservation District Study to acknowledge cultural heritage in the area. For example, the unique characteristics of Cathedraltown including the Cathedral of Transfiguration within the Cathedral Residential Area (Area 4) and the Cathedral Precinct Area (Area 5) were considered throughout the environmental assessment study. The preferred design for the Victoria Square Boulevard Improvements project includes alternative designs for both the Cathedral Residential and Cathedral Precinct areas to minimize impacts to Cathedraltown and complement the unique cultural heritage characteristics of the Cathedraltown community.</p> <p data-bbox="617 1394 1425 1902">The heritage impact assessment report included in the class environmental assessment recorded all built heritage resources within the project study area. The report acknowledged that the Cathedral of the Transfiguration is listed under the City's Register of Property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest. Although the Cathedral of Transfiguration is listed, it is not designated as a property of 'cultural value or interest' and is not a protected heritage property under the Ontario Heritage Act administered by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sports. There are no known references to a Cathedral Ceremonial Route leading to the Cathedral in any planning documents assessed during class environmental assessment study.</p>

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Response and Analysis</b>
	I am satisfied that the City has fulfilled the cultural heritage assessment requirements set out in the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment.