



## MEDIA RELEASE



For immediate release  
Tues., Oct. 17, 2017

### **Highlights of the King Township Oct. 16 council meeting**

#### **Streetlight replacement**

Council approved a program which will see more than 2,000 streetlights converted from standard high-pressure sodium (HPS) types to light emitting diode (LED) ones.

Staff reported that upgrading from HPS to LED streetlights will improve visibility, safety and reduce light pollution. LED lights also use less power than HPS ones and align with King's Sustainability Plan.

The cost to retrofit the 2,111 HPS lights is estimated at \$1.9 million. At current hydro rates, it's estimated the cost will be paid back from reduced maintenance and power consumption in around nine years.

You can read the report [here](#).

#### **Road design**

Council approved hiring Ainley Group to design the reconstruction of the 10<sup>th</sup> Concession, 15<sup>th</sup> Sideroad and 8<sup>th</sup> Concession. Ainley was the lowest of two bidders for the contract. The construction on the roads is scheduled to take place next year.

You can read the report [here](#).

#### **Property tax rebate program ending**

Council agreed with staff's recommendation to phase out the Property Rebate Tax Program starting for the 2018 taxation year.

Since 1998, the program has been in place to provide rebates and reductions to property owners with vacant commercial and industrial properties. The rebates ranged between 30 and 35 per cent. Over the last five years, the average annual cost of the vacant unit rebate program in King Township was just under \$12,000. This average includes all three components of the tax bill; Township, Region and Education.

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*Lying in the heart of the Greater Toronto Area, King Township is located within York Region, one of the fastest growing and diverse economies in Canada. More than 60 per cent of the Holland Marsh, also known as Ontario's salad bowl, lies within King Township. Though predominantly rural, most of King Township's 20,000 residents live in the communities of King City, Nobleton and Schomberg.*

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The primary source of funding the vacant unit rebate program was the residential assessment class. The rebate program was intended to represent a transitional bridge when the current-value assessment system was introduced in 1997.

By virtue of how MPAC currently assesses commercial and industrial properties (income based or cost based) the vacant status of commercial and industrial units already factors into the assessment value any extended vacant unit status for the subject lands. Hence the reference to vacant unit property owners being able to 'double dip' through reduced assessment value (translating to reduced property taxation) and also receiving the benefit of property tax reduction through the rebate program.

You can read the report [here](#).

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