



MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of Regional Council

FROM: Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas, P. Eng.
Commissioner of Transportation Services

DATE: June 24, 2010

RE: **Request for Roadway Transfer
Nashville Road – Highway 50 to Highway 27 - City of Vaughan**

At its meeting of May 4th, 2010, the City of Vaughan's Council adopted a report entitled "Transfer of Nashville Road from Region to the City of Vaughan". This Vaughan staff report recommended that The Regional Municipality of York transfer Nashville Road, between Highway 27 and Highway 50, to the City of Vaughan.

This report was referred to The Regional Municipality of York through the agenda of the June 16, 2010 Transportation Services Committee. In response to this referral, Transportation Services Committee requested a memo be submitted to Regional Council for review and discussion at their next scheduled meeting of June 25, 2010. This memo is in response to that request.

Regional staff does not recommend transferring this section of Nashville Road to the City of Vaughan at this time.

Background

Nashville Road is a two-lane roadway between Highway 27 and Highway 50 that carries approximately 10,600 vehicles per day. There are approximately 40 homes in the Nashville community, between Huntington Road and Highway 27, with direct driveway access to Nashville Road. Although Nashville Road is the main street of the hamlet of Nashville, the roadway performs the function of a Regional arterial road and accommodates all types of traffic.

Between September of 2006 and June of 2007, four separate reports related to traffic concerns on Nashville Road were submitted to Regional Council. Two of these four reports specifically considered the transfer of Nashville Road to the City of Vaughan and, in October of 2006 and February 2007, Regional Council supported that jurisdiction of Nashville Road remain with the Region as Nashville Road performs the function of a Regional arterial road.

During preparation of these reports, Regional staff performed several traffic studies and observations on this section of road including speed studies, truck studies and video observation. As a result of these studies, additional warning signs were installed and the posted speed limit was reduced at two separate locations along Nashville Road between Highway 27 and Highway 50. Reports on all these matters were prepared and presented to the Transportation Services Committee and Regional Council.

All studies and observations conducted to date indicate that this section of Nashville Road has Regional significance providing important east-west traffic capacity across this part of the Region.

Studies are underway to improve the Transportation Network in this area and the future roadway network is not yet clear

There are several studies underway regarding overall transportation improvements in the southwest portion of the City of Vaughan. On October 19, 2006, Regional Council endorsed a report authorizing consulting services to complete the Western Vaughan Arterial Road Improvements – Individual Environmental Assessment. Included in this study is the improvement of Major Mackenzie Drive between Highway 50 and Weston Road.

The Ministry of Transportation of Ontario is currently undertaking an Individual Environmental Assessment study to determine the alignment of the GTA West Transportation Corridor as well as the connection of a Highway 427 extension to the GTA West Corridor. Identifying and protecting for arterial road interchanges is also part of the Ministry of Transportation's study. The future GTA West Transportation Corridor will provide a future Regional connection between Highway 50 and Highway 27.

York Region's Transportation Master Plan also identifies a potential interchange for Nashville Road with the future extension of Highway 427. When this interchange is constructed, Nashville Road will continue to function as a Regional arterial road. As the lands north and south of Nashville Road, west of Huntington Road, are planned for employment uses, Nashville Road will be the main arterial road to access these lands.

Until these studies are complete, it is impossible to determine the future significance of Nashville Road in the Regional transportation network.

Conclusion

Regional staff have investigated the feasibility of transferring jurisdictional ownership of Nashville Road, between Highway 27 and Highway 50, to the City of Vaughan. The results of the application of the Council-approved assumption criteria reveal that Nashville Road between Highway 27 and Highway 50 meets the characteristics of a Regional arterial road and should remain as part of the Regional road system.

Nashville Road between Highway 27 and Highway 50 has Regional significance and until such time as on-going major transportation studies are complete. Therefore, we do not recommend transferring this road section to the City of Vaughan.

Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas, P. Eng.
Commissioner –Transportation Services

DC/bm