



TOWN OF NEWMARKET

Anita Moore
Town Clerk
905-953-5300, ext. 2202
amoore@newmarket.ca

May 17, 2007

RECEIVED
MAY 17 2007

FILED IN

PO.3

→ B. Macgregor

Mr. Denis Kelly, Clerk
The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4V9



Dear Mr. Kelly:

**RE: Community Services Report – PWES 2007-35
Fluorescent Yellow Green School Signs
Town-wide Installation**

I am writing to advise that the above referenced matter was considered by Council at the regular meeting held on Monday, May 14, 2007.

The following recommendations were adopted:

THAT Community Services Report - PWES 2007-35 dated April 17, 2007 regarding Fluorescent Yellow Green School Signs – Town-wide Installation be received and that Council adopt the following recommendations:

- 1. THAT the current blue and white school signs be converted to the Fluorescent Yellow Green school signs during the summer of 2007 and completed by September 1, 2007;**
- 2. AND THAT the placement of the school signs follow the appropriate Ministry of Transportation standards and guides;**

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395 Mulock Drive, P.O. Box 328, STN MAIN NEWMARKET, ON L3Y 4X7
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3. **AND THAT a copy of Community Services Report PWES 2007-35 be forwarded to the Honourable Donna Cansfield, Minister of Transportation, Bruce Macgregor, Commissioner of Transportation and Works Department York Region, Chief Armand La Barge, York Region Police and the area municipalities.**

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Anita Moore'.

Anita Moore

Town Clerk

AM:jb

Encl.

cc— Mr. R. Prentice, Commissioner of Community Services

Mr. J. Koutroubis, Director of Public Works and Environmental Services



TOWN OF NEWMARKET

Community Services
Public Works and Environmental Services Department
905-953-5300 ext. 2500
publicworks@newmarket.ca

April 17, 2007

COMMUNITY SERVICES PUBLIC WORKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT REPORT 2007-35

TO: Committee of the Whole

SUBJECT: Fluorescent Yellow Green School Signs
Town-wide Installation
File No.: T.30

ORIGIN: J. G. Koutroubis, B.Eng., P.Eng.
Director of Public Works & Environmental Services

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT Community Services Report - PWES 2007-035, dated April 17, 2007 regarding Fluorescent Yellow Green School Signs – Town-wide Installation, be received and that Council adopt the following recommendations;

1. THAT the current blue and white school signs be converted to the Fluorescent Yellow Green school signs during the summer of 2007 and completed by September 1, 2007;
2. AND THAT the placement of the school signs follow the appropriate Ministry of Transportation standards and guides;
3. AND THAT a copy of Community Services Report PWES 2007-35 be forwarded to the Honourable Donna Cansfield, Minister of Transportation, Bruce Macgregor, Commissioner of Transportation and Works Department York Region, Chief Armand La Barge, York Region Police and the area municipalities.

BACKGROUND

At the regular meeting of Town Council on January 22, 2007, Town Council adopted the following recommendations:

1. THAT the current signs on Lorne Avenue be maintained until the Ministry of Transportation makes a final decision on the school sign colour;

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2. **AND THAT all current local school signage be maintained in accordance with the *Highway Traffic Act* until such time as the Ministry of Transportation provides a final decision on this matter;**
3. **AND THAT the Ministry of Transportation be requested to provide a formal response on the expected timing of the final decision on this matter;**
4. **AND THAT the Ministry of Transportation consider making a final decision on this matter prior to the summer of 2007 to ensure that municipalities have sufficient time to make signage changes, as necessary, prior to the 2007/2008 school year;**
5. **AND THAT a copy of Community Services Report PWES 2007-01 be forwarded to the Honourable Donna Cansfield, Minister of Transportation, Bruce Macgregor, Commissioner of Transportation and Works Department York Region, Chief Armand La Barge, York Region Police and the area municipalities;**
6. **AND THAT staff report to Council in May of 2007 regarding the response of the Ministry of Transportation;**
7. **AND THAT Stuart Scott Public School as well as the School's Parent Council be provided with a copy of Community Services Report – PWES 2007-01;**
8. **AND THAT the Region of York, through Regional Councillor Taylor, be engaged in lobbying the Provincial Government in this regard;**
9. **AND THAT a resolution seeking support of all municipalities in Ontario be electronically circulated through the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).**

Recommendations #1 to #3, #5, and #7 to #9 have been fulfilled. This report represents the completion of Recommendation #6. Further, the Town has received a formal reply and decision from the Minister of Transportation, Ontario dated April 4, 2007, as attached in Appendix A.

COMMENTS

The attached Ministry of Transportation letter, dated April 4, 2007, indicates that the use of fluorescent school warning signs can proceed immediately, and that all the necessary legislative and standards changes will occur expeditiously.

Therefore, the Town can commence with the conversion of the blue and white school signs to the new fluorescent yellow green signs. As noted in Public Works Report PWES 2007-01, it is recommended that the school sign conversion take place over the summer of 2007 and completed by September 1, 2007. As well, it is recommended that the school signs, in particular the school crossing signs, be installed in accordance with Ontario Traffic Manual Books 5 and 6, and the new School Crossing Guard Guide produced by the Ontario Traffic Conference January 2006.

Further, it is recommended that all York Region municipalities receive this report and Council extract to inform the other municipalities of the Council's decision in attempts to create uniformity on the entire York Region road system for the use of the school signs.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

There was no direct public consultation with the preparation of this report. The local School Parent Councils were contacted to provide input, but as of the date of this report, no formal input has been received.

As well, the Town has received a number of supportive correspondence from other municipalities as a result of recommendation #9 as noted in the January 22, 2007 Council recommendations.

BUSINESS PLAN AND STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGES

Living Well

- Provide efficient, effective and environmentally sound maintenance services at an appropriate level that, achieves Council and/or Provincially mandated service levels which meet public health and safety requirements and, enhances quality of life while ensuring that system capital assets retain their value and are managed and funded according to sustainable lifecycle based principles and practices.

IMPACT ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

The installation of the Fluorescent Yellow Green school signs may increase pedestrian and vehicular safety adjacent to school sites.

IMPACT ON BUDGET

The exact budget dollar figure will depend upon the exact number of signs to be replaced. Based on the number of school crossings and school zones within the Town, it is estimated that the cost of changing all the signs including on all Regional Roads would be in the order of approximately \$20,000.00. Given the nature of the sign change and to maintain consistency, it would be prudent to change all signs in the same school year.

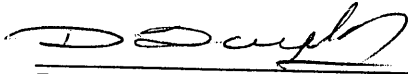
Staff have proposed the use of an existing and unexpended 2006 FYG School Signage Capital Budget carryover account in the amount of \$10,000.00 shown in the 2007 Capital Budget. Required funds in excess of \$10,000.00 will be drawn from the capital funds of other available 2007 signage programs.

Prepared by:



M. Kryzanowski, M.C.I.P., R.P.P.

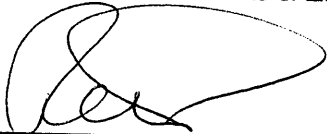
Senior Transportation Coordinator



D. Taylor, C.E.T.
Manager of Engineering



J. G. Koutroubis, B.Eng., P.Eng.
Director of Public Works & Environmental Services



R. Prentice
Commissioner of Community Services

14.5

APPENDIX A

Ministry of
Transportation

Office of the Minister
Ferguson Block, 3rd Floor
77 Wellesley St. West
Toronto Ontario
M7A 1Z8
416 327-9200
www.mto.gov.on.ca

Ministère des
Transports

Bureau du ministre
Édifice Ferguson, 3^e étage
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APR 04 2007
Ms. Anita Moore
Town Clerk
Town of Newmarket
395 Mulock Drive
PO Box 328, Station Main
Newmarket, Ontario
L3Y 4X7

Dear Ms. Moore:

Thank you for your letter of January 24, 2007, forwarding the Town of Newmarket's Resolution R1-2007 regarding fluorescent yellow-green school signs. I take the safety of school children very seriously and am pleased to be able to offer you some encouraging news on this issue.

Given the expanding use of the fluorescent yellow-green school signs in Ontario, and the adoption of this colour as a national standard by the Transportation Association of Canada, the ministry will expand the recognition of this sign/colour in its Ontario Traffic Manuals (Book 5 - Regulatory Signs and Book 6 - Warning Signs), and Regulation 615 of the *Highway Traffic Act*.

Changes to the regulation are expected to include an allowable period where both signs can be used to provide road authorities time to implement these changes. Notice to municipalities will also be provided following approval of the regulation and placement in the Ontario Gazette.

Changes to the Ontario Traffic Manuals will be made in their next printing. However, municipalities can use the yellow green school zone and warning signs immediately. The timing of the legislated changes for the speed signs is difficult to predict but I assure you that this process will proceed expeditiously. To obtain updates on the status of this initiative and the Ontario Traffic Manuals, you may contact Gordon Troughton, P. Eng., Manager of the ministry's Traffic Office, at (905) 704-2940. Mr. Troughton would be pleased to assist you.

Thank you again for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna Cansfield".

Donna Cansfield
Minister