

8

STOUFFVILLE - TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends:

- 1. The recommendations contained in the following report, December 14, 2005, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works be adopted; and**
- 2. The implementation of the traffic calming measures be co-ordinated with the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville:**

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The implementation a southbound right-turn prohibition at the intersection of the Ninth Line (Y.R. 69) and Rupert Avenue in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville during the following times be approved:
 - Monday to Friday - 7:00 am to 9:00 am
 - Saturday - 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
2. The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary by-law
3. The By-law that prohibits northbound straight through movements at the intersection of Main Street and the Ninth Line (Y.R. 69)/Fairview Avenue in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville be rescinded.
4. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the Clerk of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville and to the Chief of York Regional Police with a request that these turning restrictions be enforced immediately after their implementation.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to address a request from the Council of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville that a southbound right-turn prohibition be implemented during specific times of the day at the intersection of the Ninth Line and Rupert Avenue in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, and that the By-law that prohibits northbound straight through movements at the intersection of the Ninth Line/Fairview Avenue and Main Street in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville be rescinded.

3. BACKGROUND

In the spring of 2004, the Council of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville resolved that their staff develop a Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Plan for the area within the limits of Sandale Road, Ninth Line, Main Street and Elm Road (see *Attachment 1*). Amongst others, it was requested that the Traffic Calming Plan address the local community's concern of motorists using local streets in the study area to by-pass Main Street and the Ninth Line.

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville completed a Class Environmental Assessment and received support from residents to implement the Traffic Calming Plan.

On August 23, 2005, the Council of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville approved the implementation of the Traffic Calming Plan.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Two of the six recommendations in the approved Traffic Calming Plan require Regional approval. These are:

- A prohibition of southbound right turns at the intersection of the Ninth Line and Rupert Avenue during the following times:
 - Monday to Friday - 7:00 am to 9:00 am
 - Saturdays - 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
- Rescinding the By-law that prohibits northbound straight through movements at the intersection of the Ninth Line/Fairview Avenue and Main Street.

The right-turn prohibition at the Ninth Line and Rupert Avenue intersection will reduce the number of vehicles that use Rupert Avenue to by-pass the intersections of the Ninth Line with Main Street. Regional staff estimate that the amount of vehicles turning right at the intersection of the Ninth Line with Main Street will increase marginally by about ten to 20 vehicles per hour during the AM peak. These vehicles are not expected to contribute significantly to congestion at this intersection nor at the intersection of the Ninth Line/Fairview Avenue and Main Street.

As a full closure of Fairview Avenue, just north of Main Street, is an approved recommendation of the Traffic Calming Plan, prohibiting northbound straight through movements at the intersection of the Ninth Line/Fairview Avenue and Main Street will become unnecessary.

Staff estimated that the closure of Fairview Avenue will result in a marginal increase in the number of vehicles turning left at the intersection of the Ninth Line with Main Street (approximately ten to 20 vehicles during the PM peak hour). It is not expected that these additional left-turn vehicles will significantly contribute to congestion at this intersection.

The implementation of the turn prohibitions in this report will be coordinated with the implementation schedules of the four remaining traffic calming proposals approved by the Town's Council. These are:

- A temporary road closure of Glad Park Avenue between the north and south intersections of Elm Road.
- A temporary road closure of Fairview Avenue at the north limit of the commercial properties fronting Main Street.
- A temporary directional closure at the southeast corner of the intersection of Rupert Avenue and Winona Drive prohibiting eastbound traffic past the directional obstruction.
- A temporary directional closure at the southwest corner of the intersection of Elm Road and Fairview Avenue prohibiting southbound traffic movement on Fairview Avenue past the directional obstruction.

A By-law is required before the proposed turn prohibitions at the intersection of the Ninth Line and Rupert Avenue can be implemented. The Regional Solicitor should prepare the necessary By-law.

At a meeting with Regional staff on November 2, 2006, Mayor Sherban of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville requested the Region to address the Town's concerns regarding the staggered intersections of the Ninth Line with Main Street. The Town would like this "jog" eliminated.

The Region completed an Environmental Assessment on the Ninth Line from Highway 7 to Stouffville Road in August 1999. This Environmental Study report briefly touched on a possible jog elimination of Ninth Line at its intersection of Stouffville Road, but the option was dismissed as the need was not there at the time and it was cost prohibitive. It is becoming timely to initiate an Environmental Assessment Addendum for review of the jog elimination as traffic has increased and will further increase as development proceeds.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs associated with the implementation of roads signs are included within the 2005 and 2006 Business Plan and Budget.

7. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

This report was prepared in response to a request from the Council of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville to implement certain traffic calming measures on the Ninth Line. The proposed traffic calming measures will benefit the Stouffville community by reducing traffic infiltration.

8. CONCLUSION

To address community concerns about traffic infiltrating through the area bounded by Sandale Road, Ninth Line, Main Street and Elm Road in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, a Traffic Calming Plan was developed subject to the Class Environmental Assessment process. In response to community support, on August 23, 2005, the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Council approved the implementation of the TCP and resolved to request the Region to:

- Implement a southbound right-turn restriction at the intersection of the Ninth Line and Rupert Avenue during the following times:
 - Monday to Friday - 7:00 am to 9:00 am
 - Saturdays - 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
- Rescind the existing By-law that prohibits northbound straight through movements at the intersection of the Ninth Line/Fairview Avenue and Main Street.

It is therefore recommended that the proposed southbound right-turn prohibition at the intersection of the Ninth Line and Rupert Avenue, as well as the rescinding of the northbound straight movement prohibition at the intersection Ninth Line/Fairview Avenue and Main Street be approved.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause was included in the agenda for the January 11, 2006 Committee meeting.)