

9
TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE
DAVIS DRIVE
TOWN OF NEWMARKET

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, December 13, 2006, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The Commissioner of Transportation and Works be authorized to exercise any of the powers of Regional Council for the temporary closure of Davis Drive (Y.R. 31), between Prospect Street (Y.R. 34) and Patterson Street/Roxborough Road, in the Town of Newmarket, for the purpose of dismantling a temporary work platform that was installed to facilitate the construction of the existing pedestrian bridge over Davis Drive (Y.R. 31).
2. The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary by-law.
3. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the Ministry of Transportation, the Chief of Police and to the Clerk of the Town of Newmarket.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement from Regional Council to authorize the Commissioner of Transportation and Works to temporarily close Davis Drive, from Prospect Street to Patterson Street/Roxborough Road, to allow the dismantling of a temporary work platform. The *Municipal Act* requires Regional Council authorization to temporarily close roads for the purposes of construction or maintenance and permits Council to delegate this authority.

3. BACKGROUND

As part of Southlake Regional Health Centre's ongoing redevelopment, the hospital is completing the construction of a 470 spot six-storey parking garage which is linked via a pedestrian bridge across Davis Drive to a Medical Arts Building. The pedestrian bridge and its associated piers and footings are the subject of an encroachment agreement executed on behalf of the Region by the Commissioner of Transportation and Works.

There is an existing working platform supported under the pedestrian bridge that requires dismantling and removal. In order to dismantle and remove the work platform, it is necessary to temporarily close Davis Drive. Regional Council previously authorized a road closure for the installation of the structural components of the pedestrian bridge. The location plan is provided as *Attachment 1*.

During the summer of 2006, over two separate week-ends, the existing pedestrian bridge over Davis Drive was constructed during a temporary full road closure authorized by Regional Council. The construction of this pedestrian bridge is nearing completion and is at a point where the existing work platform must be removed.

In order to safely remove this work platform, it is necessary to temporarily close this section of Davis Drive to through-traffic. The *Municipal Act* allows municipal councils to delegate authority to temporarily close roads for the purposes of construction or maintenance.

The contractor has requested the temporary road closure for a full 24 hour period on two consecutive Saturdays. Typically, weekend traffic volumes throughout the Region are lower than weekday traffic volumes when motorists are not commuting to and from workplaces and are more accepting of the need to change their travel routes. Although the contractor expects that the dismantling operation will require less than 24 hours, an additional closure period has been requested in case of poor weather conditions.

Regional staff and the contractor, with representatives from Southlake Regional Health Centre, have agreed to the following closure dates:

- 12:01 a.m. Saturday, January 27, 2007 to 12:01 a.m. on Sunday, January 28, 2007, and, if required
- 12:01 a.m. Saturday, February 3, 2007 to 12:01 a.m. on Sunday, February 4, 2007.

The contractor has committed to these dates and will carry out this work unless severe weather conditions create unsafe working conditions. The contractor will open the road to traffic as soon as possible after completion of the scheduled work.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

4.1 Rationale for Temporary Road Closure

Where possible, Regional staff co-ordinate the construction activities to keep the roads open to through-traffic. However, it is not always feasible to maintain through-traffic because of the nature of the work. Often, it is safer and more cost-effective to complete the work under a temporary full road closure. The duration of this road closure, and the

method of construction, have been discussed with Regional staff and it has been determined that a temporary road closure is preferred.

Temporary road closures, where implemented, reduce safety risks to both the travelling public and work crews and provide a work environment that enhances construction quality. Furthermore, temporary closures significantly reduce the costs and time scheduled for any work, thus minimizing public impact and disruption.

4.2 Public Notification and Mitigation

Notification of the temporary road closure will be placed on arterial and local roads at least two weeks prior to the closure period along with advertisements in the local newspapers. All emergency public service agencies (police, fire and ambulance) and public and school transit authorities will be informed of the closure. Southlake Regional Health Centre, or their designate, will be required to notify all contacts and fulfill the requirements as provided on *Attachment 2*. The temporary road closure schedule will also be posted on the York Region website.

A detailed signage plan will be put in place for the temporary closure to clearly identify detour routes. Measures will also be provided to maintain local access to residents, businesses, schools and other institutions. Property owners that will be directly affected by the closure will be advised by hand delivered flyers.

A plan has been established to allow emergency vehicles to access the hospital via the local road system. A pay duty police officer will be situated at the intersection of Davis Drive and Prospect Street and at Davis Drive and Patterson Street/Roxborough Road for the duration of the temporary road closure.

The duration period for each of the temporary road closures is scheduled for one full day. The contractor will be obligated to ensure effective use of the closure period and to minimize impact and inconvenience to the public through effective work planning and operations. The contractor will open the road to traffic as soon as possible after completion of the scheduled work.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The work and all costs associated with the dismantling of the temporary work platform and the related traffic management and public notification will be the responsibility of Southlake Regional Health Centre.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The closure of any road creates an inconvenience to the travelling public. Regional staff will undertake a number of measures to ensure that this disruption is kept to a minimum.

Signage forewarning of the proposed temporary road closure will be placed well in advance of the road closure dates and residents in the vicinity of the road closure will be advised by hand delivered flyers.

Traffic management plans for this work have been forwarded to Regional staff from the contractor for review and approval. Advertisements will be placed in the local newspapers indicating the closure location and duration. Detour signs will be installed to properly guide motorists around the closure. Emergency services and school boards will be notified in advance of the closure to ensure no interruption to their service.

Staff at the Town of Newmarket has been involved in discussions with the contractor and representatives of Southlake Regional Health Centre and are in support of the proposed closure and have agreed to the suggested detour plans on local roads.

7. CONCLUSION

Under the *Municipal Act*, Regional Council may delegate authority to temporarily close a road. It is, therefore, recommended that authorization be delegated to the Commissioner of Transportation and Works for the temporary road closure of Davis Drive between Prospect Street and Patterson Street/Roxborough Road.

The closure of this road will allow for more cost-effective and safe construction work to occur. Regional staff will take all necessary precautions to ensure that the road closure is kept to a minimum and that appropriate notification is made to all that may be affected by this closure.

For more information on this report contact Brian Harrison, Director of Operations of the Roads Branch in the Transportation and Works Department at extension 5205.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachments referred to in this clause were included in the agenda for the January 10, 2007 Committee meeting.)