

8

REDUCED VEHICLE LOADS - SPRING THAW PERIOD REGIONAL ROADS

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, January 23, 2007, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works, subject to removing from Attachment 1 the two roads proposed to be deleted from the By-law:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The changes shown in *Attachment 1* be made to By-Law R-1435-2006-014 to provide for restricted loads on certain Regional roads.
2. The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary amendments to the by-law.

2. PURPOSE

This report is submitted to present changes to the restricted load by-law for the spring thaw period.

3. BACKGROUND

On February 16, 2006, Regional Council adopted Clause 10 of Report No 2 of the Transportation and Works Committee and enacted By-law, R-1435-2006-014, to provide for restricted loads on certain Regional roads as shown in *Attachments 2 and 3*. The by-law was enacted for the period from March 1 to April 30 each year and that in future years if there are any changes, an amending by-law would be presented to Council. In addition, the Commissioner of Transportation and Works was authorized to post the reduced load restriction at any time during that period as road conditions warrant.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

For different reasons, the following changes are proposed to the by-law.

- **2nd Concession Road – from Green Lane to Queensville Sideroad**
This section was added due to the transfer from the Town of East Gwillimbury.

- **Warden Avenue – from 700 metres north of Ravenshoe Road to Baseline Road**
This section was added due to the transfer from the Town of Georgina.
- **Warden Avenue – from Stouffville Road to 1,000 metres south of Bloomington Road**
This section was removed due to reconstruction and no longer requires weight restrictions.
- **McCowan Road – from Stouffville Road to 1,000 metres south of Bloomington Road**
This section was removed due to reconstruction and no longer requires weight restrictions.

It is recommended that an amendment to By-law R-1435-2006-014 be made to authorize reduced loads for the period March 1 to April 30 in each year. If in future years, there are any additional changes to the roads that will be subject to the by-law, an amending by-law will be presented to Council.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications associated with this report are the installation of the road signs displaying the five tonne per axle load restriction. The sign installation costs are included in the annual Roads Budget.

Without a weight restriction during the spring thaw period, heavy truck usage could cause extensive damage to these limited structural capacity Regional roads. Remedial repairs could cost up to \$65,000 per kilometre.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

There are no local municipal implications for this report. Most municipalities also enact a similar by-law for the roads under their jurisdiction.

7. CONCLUSION

By-law R-1435-2006-014 restricts the gross vehicle weight limit to five tonnes per axle for specific Regional road sections. This report is to change the list of roads as detailed in *Attachment 1*. The by-law is to cover the period between March 1 and April 30 in each year.

The time when the load restriction is required on a given section of roadway can fluctuate due to climatic conditions. The Commissioner of Transportation and Works is authorized to implement and post the reduced load restriction, as conditions warrant.

The proposed half-load restriction will have limited impact on existing traffic patterns and will not affect any industrial or commercial development activity. Oversize/overweight permits will be issued for commercial vehicle deliveries to existing commercial businesses along these weight-restricted routes.

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

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(Attachment 1 referred to in this clause is attached to this report. Attachments 2 and 3 referred to in this clause were included in the agenda for the February 7, 2007 Committee meeting.)