

9

NO STOPPING ANYTIME RESTRICTION McCOWAN ROAD SOUTH OF HIGHWAY 7 TOWN OF MARKHAM

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, January 21, 2004, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. A “No Stopping Anytime” zone be established on the west side of McCowan Road (Y.R. 67), from Highway 7 (Y.R. 7) southerly for 250 metres, in the Town of Markham.
2. The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary by-law.
3. The Regional Clerk forward a copy of this report to the Clerk of the Town of Markham and to the Chief of York Regional Police.

2. PURPOSE

This report proposes to place a “No Stopping Anytime” zone on the west side of McCowan Road, south of Highway 7, to improve traffic operations and safety, particularly at the driveway access to the shopping complex on the west side of McCowan Road. A location plan is provided as *Attachment 1*. A Regional by-law is required under the *Highway Traffic Act* before any such no stopping area can be signed and enforced.

3. BACKGROUND

McCowan Road, south of Highway 7, is a four-lane, undivided arterial roadway that carries an average of 40,000 vehicles per day. The section of McCowan Road, between Highway 407 and Highway 7, is heavily congested during peak periods and weekend mornings.

Approximately 200 metres south of Highway 7, on the west side of McCowan Road, there is a full-movement driveway access to a shopping complex that contains, amongst others, a grocery store, a coffee shop and a fast food restaurant.

The coffee shop was opened in 2001. At the time, the Town of Markham opposed the development of this facility due to the anticipated negative effect that the additional traffic generated by the coffee shop would have on the safety and traffic operational

performance of McCowan Road. The case was referred to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) which allowed the development to proceed.

Complaints have been received that truck drivers stop in the southbound curb lane of McCowan Road and then leave their vehicles to purchase refreshments and food, which has increased the high levels of congestion already experienced in this area of McCowan Road.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

A review of traffic operations at the McCowan Road driveway access to the shopping complex found that trucks stop on McCowan Road regularly. This presents a significant safety hazard to southbound vehicles on McCowan Road, and to vehicles exiting the shopping complex to enter McCowan Road. When trucks stop on McCowan Road, they effectively close the curb lane, resulting in increased congestion and conflicts as southbound vehicles are forced to stop and/or perform lane changing manoeuvres to the left. Stationary trucks parked in the curb lane on McCowan Road in the vicinity of the driveway access also obstruct sight lines for vehicles entering McCowan Road, making it very difficult for these vehicles to perform safe turning manoeuvres. Trucks remain stationary, without a driver in attendance, for approximately five to ten minutes. It is highly likely that these trucks have contributed to the significant increase in collisions on McCowan Road between Highway 7 and the driveway access since the opening of the coffee shop in 2001.

To address these safety concerns, it is proposed that a “No Stopping Anytime” zone be implemented on the west side of McCowan Road, from Highway 7 to approximately 50 metres south of the driveway access, a distance of 250 metres.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs associated with the manufacture and installation of the “No Stopping Anytime” signs are included within the proposed 2004 Roads Transportation Program Budget. In accordance with the Regional and Provincial Offences Agreements, the Town of Markham will retain any enforcement revenue.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The enforcement of this by-law will be carried out by the by-law enforcement staff of the Town of Markham. Town of Markham staff have been consulted and agreed to the implementation of a “No Stopping Anytime” regulation on McCowan Road. In accordance with the agreement under the *Provincial Offences Act* for enforcement of Regional by-laws, the revenues will be retained by the Town of Markham.

7. CONCLUSION

To address safety concerns regarding trucks stopping on McCowan Road south of Highway 7, the implementation of “No Stopping Anytime” regulation is proposed on the west side of McCowan Road, from Highway 7 to 50 metres south of the driveway access to the shopping complex on the west side of McCowan Road, a distance of 250 metres. By-law enforcement staff of the Town of Markham, in accordance with the Regional and Provincial Offences Agreements, will carry out enforcement of this Regional by-law.

The Regional Clerk should, therefore, forward a copy of this report and the adopted by-law to the Clerk of the Town of Markham and York Regional Police.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(A copy of the attachment referred to in the foregoing has been forwarded to each Member of Council with the February 4, 2004 Transportation and Works Committee agenda and a copy thereof is on file in the Office of the Regional Clerk.)