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TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES TOWNS OF GEORGINA, EAST GWILLIMBURY, RICHMOND HILL, MARKHAM, WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE AND THE CITY OF VAUGHAN

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, February 16, 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 the following roads:
 - a) Weir's Sideroad (Y.R. 81) south of Old Homestead Road (Y.R. 79) at the CN level crossing in the Town of Georgina (*see Attachment 1*).
 - b) McCowan Road (Y.R. 67) north of Davis Drive (Y.R. 31) at the CN level crossing in the Town of East Gwillimbury (*see Attachment 2*).
 - c) Leslie Street (Y.R. 12) south of Stouffville Road (Y.R. 14) at the CN level crossing in the Town of Richmond Hill (*see Attachment 3*).
 - d) Aurora Road (Y.R. 15) east of Woodbine Avenue (Y.R. 8) at the CN level crossing in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville (*see Attachment 4*).
 - e) Teston Road (Y.R. 49) between Dufferin Street (Y.R. 53) and Bathurst Street (Y.R. 38) in the City of Vaughan (*see Attachment 5*).
 - f) Kennedy Road (Y.R. 3) south of Denison Street at the GO Transit level crossing in the Town of Markham (*see Attachment 6*).
2. The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary by-law for the temporary closure of those sections of Weir's Sideroad (Y.R. 81), McCowan Road (Y.R. 67), Leslie Street (Y.R. 12), Aurora Road (Y.R. 15), Teston Road (Y.R. 49) and Kennedy Road (Y.R.3) as outlined in this report.
3. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the Clerks of the Towns of Georgina, East Gwillimbury, Richmond Hill, Markham, Whitchurch-Stouffville, City of Vaughan, and to CN and GO Transit.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide authorization for the Commissioner of Transportation and Works to temporarily close the specified Regional roads to through traffic to accommodate railway crossing improvements and road reconstruction.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 CN Crossing Improvements

CN, in a letter dated December 19, 2005, has requested a temporary road closure at four sites, where railway crossing rehabilitation is required. In addition GO Transit has also requested permission to rehabilitate one site. In order to complete these activities, it is preferable to temporarily close sections of a road to through traffic. The *Municipal Act* allows a municipal council to delegate authority to temporarily close roads for the purposes of construction or maintenance.

Although the dates for the temporary closures have not yet been scheduled by CN or GO Transit, the work will commence sometime in 2006. Construction schedules often change because of delays, weather, and supply of materials, it is therefore appropriate to delegate the authority to temporarily close roads to the Commissioner of Transportation and Works.

The following roadworks require temporary road closures for construction activities:

- Weir's Sideroad Railway Crossing Improvements Town of Georgina
South of Old Homestead Road
- McCowan Road Railway Crossing Improvements Town of East Gwillimbury
North of Davis Drive
- Leslie Street Railway Crossing Improvements Town of Richmond Hill
North of Stouffville Road
- Aurora Road Railway Crossing Improvements Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville
East of Woodbine Avenue
- Kennedy Road Railway Crossing Improvements Town of Markham
South of Denison Street

These temporary road closures involve the rehabilitation of the at-grade rail crossings.

3.2 Teston Road Improvements (Between Dufferin Street and Bathurst Street)

Teston Road is classified as a Regional Arterial Road in the Region's Official Plan. Teston Road currently terminates at Dufferin Street due to the Keele Valley Landfill site. Starting at Dufferin Street, Teston Road runs in an easterly direction for approximately 2km before intersecting Bathurst Street. Beyond Bathurst Street, Teston Road enters the Town of Richmond Hill where it is known as Elgin Mills Road. Traffic volume along this section of Teston Road is approximately 5400 AADT.

The proposed improvements along Teston Road include full reconstruction and widening. As part of the work substantial profile revisions will be undertaken to address existing sight distance deficiencies. The roadway will also be widened to accommodate a three-lane section (two through lanes plus a continuous centre left lane) and standard shoulders.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

4.1 Rationale for Temporary Road Closures

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

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 schedule for any work, thus minimizing public impact and disruption when applied.

4.2 Teston Road - Temporary Closure Considerations

A temporary closure would close Teston Road between Dufferin and Bathurst to through traffic for a period not to exceed five months. Local access to area residents would be maintained at all times. Vehicles currently using Teston Road for their east-west commute can be detoured to either Major Mackenzie Drive or King Road.

The benefits from a temporary closure of Teston Road are:

- Good accessibility to the site will increase the contractor's productivity
- Shorter period of construction due to increased productivity
- No additional costs for traffic staging requirements
- Shorter disruption to area residents
- Reduced risk to public safety by completing the work in a no through traffic zone
- Maintains local access to properties at all times

To keep Teston Road open to through traffic during construction presents significant challenges due to the nature and extent of the proposed work. Specifically, profile revisions are proposed to improve the operation and safety of Teston Road and upgrade it to current Regional standards. The profile revisions will result in three to five metre changes in the road grade. In order to construct the road at the new profile, off alignment detours would need to be constructed, which would increase the environmental impacts, property requirements and cost and extend the total construction duration. As such, for the reasons noted above, staff is in support of the temporary closure of Teston Road during construction. Construction is expected to commence in June 2006 and be completed by October 2006.

4.3 Public Notification and Mitigation

4.3.1 CN and GO Transit Rail Closures

It is the responsibility of CN and GO Transit to notify all affected residents, emergency services (police, fire and ambulance), school bus operators, school transit authorities and the public of the closures at least two weeks prior to the closures.

Road signs notifying the public of the proposed road closures will be placed on the arterial and local roads a minimum of two weeks in advance of the closure by CN and GO Transit.

Temporary road closure schedules will also be posted on the York Region website.

Local access to residents, businesses, schools and other institutions will be maintained.

Temporary road closures for CN and GO Transit crossing improvements will be a maximum of one day. Once a road closure is in effect, efficient use of the time period will be an obligation of CN, GO Transit and its contractor to ensure that public impact and inconvenience is limited through effective work planning and operations.

4.3.2 Teston Road Closure

Notification of the Teston Road closure will be placed on arterial and local roads 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 also be informed of the closures. Temporary road closure schedules will also be posted on the York Region website.

A detailed signage plan will be put in place for this closure to clearly identify detour routes. Measures will also be provided to maintain local access to residents, businesses, schools and other institutions. Any property owner that will be affected by the local access only will be advised directly by mail.

The duration period for the Teston Road temporary closure shall not exceed five months and will be minimized by imposing timing constraints within the construction contract for the project. Once the road closure is in effect, efficient utilization of the time period will

be an obligation of the contractor to ensure that public impact and inconvenience is limited through effective work planning and operations.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Signage forewarning the public of the proposed temporary road closures will be placed a minimum of two weeks in advance of the road closure dates. Local traffic will be maintained at all times to provide access to businesses and residences. 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 in service provision.

7. CONCLUSION

Under the *Municipal Act*, Regional Council may delegate authority to temporarily close roads.

It is therefore recommended that authorization be delegated to the Commissioner of Transportation and Works for the temporary closure of:

- Weir's Sideroad, south of Old Homestead Road in the Town of Georgina.
- McCowan Road, north Davis Drive in the Town of East Gwillimbury.
- Leslie Street, south of Stouffville Road in the Town of Richmond Hill.
- Aurora Road, east of Woodbine Avenue in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.
- Teston Road, Dufferin Street to Bathurst Street in the City of Vaughan.
- Kennedy Road Denison Street to Steeles Avenue in the Town of Markham.

Regional staff will take all necessary precautions to ensure that road closures are kept to a minimum and that appropriate notification is made to all affected parties.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachments referred to in this clause were included in the agenda for the March 1, 2006 Committee meeting.)