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MAJOR MACKENZIE DRIVE INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends:

- 1. The recommendations contained in the following report, March 16, 2005, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works be adopted; and**
- 2. Further discussion take place between Region of York and Town of Richmond Hill Staff regarding the feasibility of extending the lane beyond 30 metres.**

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The eastbound lane at the intersection of Major Mackenzie Drive (Y.R. 25) and Leslie Street (Y.R.12) be extended to reduce the delay to eastbound right turn vehicles.
2. The Regional Clerk forward a copy of this report to the Clerk of the Town of Richmond Hill.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform Committee and Regional Council of the findings and recommendation of feasibility study that was conducted by Regional staff in response to a Town of Richmond Hill Council resolution requesting that the eastbound right turn lane on Major Mackenzie Drive approaching Leslie Street be extended to improve traffic operations for eastbound right turn traffic.

3. BACKGROUND

The current eastbound right turn lane on Major Mackenzie Drive approaching Leslie Street consists of a 30 metre parallel section and a 60 metre taper. The eastbound right turn movement during the morning peak is 368 vehicles per hour. Queues in the eastbound through lanes extend beyond the start of the right turn lane and block the right turn lane preventing right turn vehicles from entering the right turn lane. As a result, the right turn lane remains under utilized and right turn vehicles “caught” in the queue experience high levels of delay.

As a result of these operational concerns, the Council of the Town of Richmond Hill passed a resolution to request York Region to extend the eastbound right turn lane at the intersection of Major Mackenzie Drive at Leslie Street.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

In order to reduce the delay to eastbound vehicles on Major Mackenzie Drive turning right onto Leslie Street, it is proposed that the right turn lane be extended. By increasing the parallel section by 30 metres, for a total of 60 metres, and retaining the 60 metre taper it is expected that the delays to eastbound right turn vehicles will be significantly reduced.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of extending the right turn lane will be approximately \$30,000. The improvement will be funded from the 2005 Minor Intersection Improvement Program budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Improvements to the eastbound right turn lane were requested by the Town of Richmond Hill. There are no other local municipal implications for this report.

7. CONCLUSION

In response to a request by the Town of Richmond Hill a study was done to determine the feasibility of extending the eastbound right turn lane on Major Mackenzie Drive approaching Leslie Street. The study concluded that the right turn lane should be extended to a length of 60 metres with a taper of 60 metres.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.