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TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES FOR CN RAILWAY CROSSING MAINTENANCE

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, April 1, 2004, 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) at the CN level crossing in the Town of Georgina (*see Attachment 1*).
 - b) McCowan Road Y.R. 67) at the CN level crossing in the Town of East Gwillimbury (*see Attachment 2*).
 - c) Kennedy Road (Y.R. 3) at the CN level crossing in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville (*see Attachment 3*).
 - d) Aurora Road (Y.R. 15) at the CN level crossing in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville (*see Attachment 4*).
2. The Regional Solicitor be authorized to prepare the necessary by-laws to give effect to the foregoing.

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.

3. BACKGROUND

CN, in a facsimile communication dated March 30, 2004, has requested a temporary road closure at four sites, where railway crossing rehabilitation is required. 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 been scheduled tentatively, 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
- Kennedy Road Railway Crossing Improvements Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville
North of St. John's Sideroad
- Aurora Road Railway Crossing Improvements Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville
East of Woodbine Avenue

3.1 Weir's Sideroad Railway Crossing Improvements

This project involves the rehabilitation of the at-grade rail crossing south of Old Homestead Road in the Town of Georgina.

A temporary full road closure on April 26, 2004 (or thereabouts, weather permitting) is required for this work. The proposed work includes the replacement of track components and consolidation of the subgrade beneath the track.

3.2 McCowan Road Railway Crossing Improvements

This project involves the rehabilitation of the at-grade rail crossing north of Davis Drive in the Town of East Gwillimbury.

A temporary full road closure on May 11, 2004 (or thereabouts, weather permitting) is required for this work. The proposed work includes the replacement of track components and consolidation of the subgrade beneath the track.

3.3 Kennedy Road Railway Crossing Improvements

This project involves the rehabilitation of the at-grade rail crossing north of St. John's Sideroad in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

A temporary full road closure on May 14, 2004 (or thereabouts, weather permitting) is required for this work. The proposed work includes the replacement of track components and consolidation of the subgrade beneath the track.

3.4 Aurora Road Railway Crossing Improvements

This project involves the rehabilitation of the at-grade rail crossing east of Woodbine Avenue in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

A temporary full road closure on May 16, 2004 (or thereabouts, weather permitting) is required for this work. The proposed work includes the replacement of track components and consolidation of the subgrade beneath the track.

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 Public Notification and Mitigation

Notification of the temporary road closures will be placed on arterial and local roads two weeks prior to the closure period. 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.

Measures will be provided to maintain local access to residents, businesses, schools and other institutions.

All temporary road closures will be a maximum of one day. Once a road closure is in effect, efficient utilization of the time period will be an obligation of CN and its contractor to ensure that public impact and inconvenience is limited through effective work planning and operations.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed temporary road closures are expected to result in a substantial savings in construction cost, compared to the cost of maintaining traffic during construction. Funds for the works are included in approved the 10-Year Capital Plan for 2004. The proposed works will be carried out at the cost of CN. Any costs for this work that are chargeable to the Region, such as signs and pavement works required at the new level crossing, are included in the approved Transportation and Works Capital Budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Signage forewarning of the proposed temporary road closures will be placed well 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.

Staff at each of the local municipalities have been contacted regarding these proposed temporary road closures and concur with the proposed closures.

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.
- Kennedy Road, north of St. John's Sideroad in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.
- Aurora Road, east of Woodbine Avenue in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The closure of these roads will allow for more cost effective and safe construction works to occur. 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 that may be affected by these closures.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing has been forwarded to each Member of Council with the April 7, 2004 Transportation and Works Committee agenda and a copy thereof is on file in the Office of the Regional Clerk.)