

7

HIGHWAY 400 EMERGENCY DETOUR ROUTES

The Transportation Services Committee recommends that the following report, dated March 11, 2010 from the Commissioner of Transportation Services, be referred back to the Commissioner of Transportation Services for a more comprehensive report on best practices for emergency detour route signage.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that this report be received for information.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to advise the Transportation Services Committee of the designation of Emergency Detour Routes along the Highway 400 corridor within York Region. This project was undertaken by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation with the support of York Region

3. BACKGROUND

Ministry of Transportation Ontario and York Region work to designate Emergency Detour Routes along Highway 400

York Region has been co-operating with the Ministry of Transportation Ontario (MTO) to designate and sign Emergency Detour Routes along Highway 400 within the jurisdiction of York Region. Simcoe County completed their Emergency Detour Routes several years ago, and this is a natural extension of the existing signage north of Highway 9/Davis Drive West. Emergency Detour Routes have also been established by MTO in various jurisdictions across the province.

An Emergency Detour Route is established in order to assist with directing traffic off of a King's Highway onto alternate routes in the event of an emergency requiring a full closure of one or both directions of the King's Highway. The Region completed the installation of the Emergency Detour Route signs along Jane Street and Weston Road in December 2009, with the MTO to complete their installation along the Highway 400 corridor in 2010.

The primary function of an Emergency Detour Route is to provide direction to motorists who may be unfamiliar with the road network in the event of an emergency highway closure.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Jane Street and Weston Road have been designated as alternate routes when Highway 400 is closed

The Highway 400 corridor through York Region is unique in that there are parallel arterials on both sides of Highway 400. Currently, during a closure northbound traffic is directed to Jane Street until Lloydtown-Aurora Road, where traffic would then be directed to Highway 27, and southbound traffic travel south on Weston Road to Highway 7. Implementation of the Emergency Detour Route provides route markers and direction to travellers unfamiliar with the area.

The Highway 400 Emergency Detour Routes will be activated by the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) if there is a major incident on the Highway that results in a full closure. We anticipate the new Emergency Detour Route will be activated by the Ontario Provincial Police less than five times annually. The OPP Officer on scene will notify the OPP Communications Centre regarding the activation and termination of the Emergency Detour Route. The OPP Communications Centre acts as an Incident Centre where they will facilitate communications with all stakeholders.

Activation of the Emergency Detour Route requires effective communication between all stakeholders

The call out procedure accounts for all the stakeholders involved when an Emergency Detour Route is activated. Each stakeholder will abide by the call out procedure to ensure that all agencies involved are notified and communication is dispersed on an ongoing basis. York Region Transportation Dispatch is notified of road closures through the Traffic and Road Information System (TRIS) operated by the Ministry of Transportation Ontario.

The installation of Emergency Detour Route signs is undertaken in partnership with the Ministry of Transportation Ontario

Emergency Detour Route signs have been installed along Jane Street and Weston Road within the Highway 400 Corridor through York Region. The Ministry of Transportation Ontario will be installing the larger Emergency Detour Route signs at interchanges along the Highway 400 Corridor. The larger Emergency Detour Route signs on Highway 400 near the interchanges are flip down signs, and will be opened and closed by Ministry contractors when the Emergency Detour Route requires activation.

Emergency Detour Routes run parallel to Highway 400

Prior to the Emergency Detour Route signs being posted on the Regional road network, when a closure occurred on Highway 400, the natural progression would be Jane Street for northbound and Weston Road for southbound. The installations of the signs designate these routes as Emergency Detour Routes for all road users whether or not they are familiar with the arterial road network (*see Attachment 1*).

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This initiative is driven by the Ministry of Transportation Ontario, with the Ministry supplying all the Emergency Detour Route signs to be installed on the Regional road network to York Region.

York Region's Southwest and Central Patrol Districts installed the signs at an estimated cost of \$2,800. The cost was included in the 2009 Transportation Services Budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Impact to the Township of King and City of Vaughan would occur only during a closure on Highway 400, with increased traffic on Weston Road and Jane Street

7. CONCLUSION

The Emergency Detour Routes along Highway 400 will assist drivers not familiar with the Regional road network with an alternate route, in the case of a highway closure.

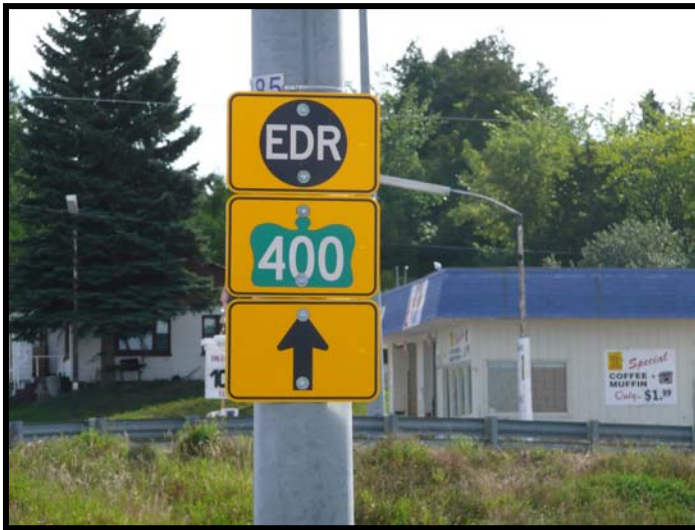
For more information on this report, please contact Steven Kemp, Director, Traffic Management and Intelligent Transportation Systems at extension 5226.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause was included in the agenda for the April 7, 2010 Committee meeting.)

EMERGENCY DETOUR ROUTES

Type of Emergency Detour Route signs installed:



Type 1:
Emergency Detour Route signage on Regional Road - always displayed



Type 2:
Emergency Detour Route signage on Highway 400:
opened and closed on the direction of the Ontario Provincial Police to the Ministry of Transportation Ontario contractor when the Emergency Detour Route is activated

EMERGENCY DETOUR ROUTES

Highway 400: Davis Drive West/Highway 9 to Highway 7 Emergency Detour Routes Overview

