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RENAMING REGIONAL ROADS – YONGE STREET TOWN OF EAST GWILLIMBURY

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, April 18, 2007, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Yonge Street (Y.R. 1) from Morning Sideroad to the York/Simcoe Boundary be named Highway 11 (Y.R. 1) as shown in *Attachment 1*.
2. Holland Landing Road (Y.R. 83) from its intersection with Yonge Street/Highway 11 (Y.R. 1) to its intersection with Yonge Street/Holland Landing Road (Y.R. 83) be named Yonge Street (Y.R. 51) as shown in *Attachment 1*.
3. Yonge Street (Y.R. 13) from Holland Landing Road (Y.R. 83) to Bradford Street (Y.R. 13) be confirmed as Yonge Street and renumbered Y.R. 51 as shown in *Attachment 1*.
4. Council approve the notice provision set out and staff be directed to follow these procedures:
 - a) Advertisement in the local paper on two occasions
 - b) Letter addressed to each affected property owner
 - c) Signage
5. The Regional Clerk forward this report to York Regional Police, EMS, East Gwillimbury Fire Department, and the Clerks of the Town of East Gwillimbury, Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury and the County of Simcoe.

2. PURPOSE

This report is to obtain Council authority to rename Regional road sections to eliminate the confusion between Yonge Street (Y.R. 1), Yonge Street (Y.R. 51) and Yonge Street (Y.R. 13).

3. BACKGROUND

The Region has received a number of comments and concerns over the confusion with four different roads in East Gwillimbury being named Yonge Street. See *Attachment 2* for a map showing these locations:

1. Yonge Street (Y.R. 1)
2. Yonge Street (Y.R. 51)
3. Yonge Street (Y.R. 13)
4. Yonge Street south of Doane Road
5. Yonge Street south of Ravenshoe Road

Emergency services (Police, Fire and EMS) have confirmed a potential safety concern.

At its meeting of February 21, 2005, the Town of East Gwillimbury Committee of the Whole Council adopted their Emergency Services Department report and resolution recommending that certain roads be renamed to remove the confusion with Yonge Street addresses in East Gwillimbury.

Both the report and resolution were placed on the Transportation and Works Committee agenda on April 6, 2005 and were received and referred to staff for a report.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Yonge Street was first established in 1796 by John Graves Simcoe (the first Governor of “Upper Canada”) and is recognized as the longest street in the world. It extends from Toronto, Front Street, 1,896 kilometres to Rainy River. Yonge Street’s 200th anniversary was celebrated in 1996.

In York Region, sections of the original alignment were by-passed to allow Yonge Street to pass around Lake Simcoe which has resulted in two separate Yonge Streets. The original Yonge Street is broken into several sections and causes confusion, especially for emergency services. *Attachment 2* shows the different sections.

Presently, the road names for Holland Landing Road (Y.R. 83), Yonge Street (Y.R. 51), Yonge Street (Y.R. 13), Mount Albert Road (Y.R. 13), and the Yonge Street (Y.R. 1) that is formerly known as Highway 11 have been causing confusion to emergency services and the residents.

4.1 Proposal

Regional staff has met on numerous occasions over the past several years, with various staff from the Town of East Gwillimbury and the emergency services to discuss possible solutions to eliminate the duplication of the Yonge Street name. More recently, a meeting was held with staff of the Town of East Gwillimbury and representatives from

emergency services to review the Town's proposal. Agreement has now been reached on the proposal to rename sections of Yonge Street to avoid the current confusion. The proposal eliminates the duplication of the Yonge Street name and it also proposes to rename a section of Yonge Street (Y.R. 1) that is part of the road that has been recognized as Yonge Street for many years.

It is proposed to rename Yonge Street (Y.R. 1) from Morning Sideroad to York/Simcoe Boundary to Highway 11 (Y.R. 1). It is also proposed to rename the portion of Holland Landing Road (Y.R. 83) from its intersection with Yonge Street/Highway 11 (Y.R. 1) (Newmarket Inn) to its intersection with Yonge Street (Y.R. 51)/Holland Landing Road (Y.R. 83). The current Roads Consolidation By-law identifies the section of Yonge Street from Holland Landing Road to Bradford Street as Yonge Street (Y.R. 13). It is also proposed to rename this section to Yonge Street (Y.R. 51) for consistency. The old gravel portion of Yonge Street would be renamed by the Town of East Gwillimbury. A location map of the renaming proposals is shown in *Attachment 1*.

4.2 Implications of Yonge Street (Y.R. 1) Name Change

Currently, Yonge Street is recognized as the longest street in the world, although it has several name changes in different areas. It was part of the provincial highway system (Highway 11) until it was downloaded to the Region and the County of Simcoe. Upon the Region assuming the section of Yonge Street from Steeles Avenue to the York/Simcoe Boundary, it was named Yonge Street (Y.R. 1).

For many years, and still today, residents refer to this section of road as either Yonge Street or Highway 11. Most of the addresses have been changed to Yonge Street, but for a short stretch from Bathurst Street to the York/Simcoe Boundary, the addresses are still Highway 11.

Once Yonge Street crosses the boundary into Simcoe County, the name changes to Bridge Street. It changes again in Bradford to Barrie Street and Holland Street East, outside of Bradford, it becomes Simcoe County Road 4. Changing the name to Highway 11 (Y.R. 1) will not significantly affect the integrity of the road or its historical significance and will only affect two property addresses. North of Bathurst Street, the addresses are still known as Highway 11.

4.3 Implication of Holland Landing Road (Y.R. 83) Name Change

Holland Landing Road has also had some name changes over the years. It was originally Highway 11. When the new Highway 11 (Yonge Street) was constructed in the early 1960s, it became Highway 11B. Once turned over to the Region, it became Holland Landing Road. The intersection of Holland Landing Road and Yonge Street (at the bottom of the hill) was recently reconstructed to change the stop condition from Yonge Street to Holland Landing Road to the west, thus making the through road Holland Landing Road from the south to Yonge Street to the north. Since this was done, it is reasonable to make the through road the same name, in this case, Yonge Street (Y.R. 51). There is only one address that will require changing in this section of road.

4.4 Naming Process for a Regional Road

Recent amendments to the Municipal Act, 2001 have removed the requirement to provide notice of a road name change, however, it is felt that before the roads are renamed, notice of the proposed change should be given to the public. The legislation does not prescribe a form of notice and enables municipalities to determine the manner and timing as appropriate. It is recommended that the following notice procedure apply:

- Advertisement in the local paper on two occasions
- Letter addressed to each affected property owner
- Signage

It is recommended that Regional staff be directed to arrange for the advertising of the name change and send notices to the affected residents.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications associated with this report involve compensation by York Region, for reasonable expenses, for address changes resulting from the changing of street names. There are only four or five addresses that will require changing for the proposal in this report. Also, the cost of any subsequent roadway name signing. These costs are estimated to be minimal and can be accommodated within the existing Roads operating budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Emergency services have requested the Region and the Town of East Gwillimbury to consider the renaming of some sections of Yonge Street in East Gwillimbury to help avoid confusion when dispatching emergency vehicles to addresses on Yonge Street. Region and Town staff have agreed on a proposal that is acceptable to Police, Fire, and EMS. The proposal would have a minimal effect on the Town's residents in the area.

The Town of East Gwillimbury will have to rename other sections of road as noted in *Attachment 1*, and will be responsible for any notifications deemed necessary by the Town.

7. CONCLUSION

It is proposed that the road renaming as shown in *Attachment 1* be approved by Council and Regional staff be directed to advertise the proposed changes and notify the directly affected residents.

For more information on this report, contact Brian Harrison, Director, Operations, Roads Branch at extension 5205 in the Transportation and Works Department.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachments referred to in this clause are attached to this report.)