

13
TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE
DAVIS DRIVE
TOWN OF NEWMARKET

(Regional Council at its meeting on May 25, 2006, amended the following as follows:

12:01 a.m. Saturday, July 8, 2006 to 5:00 a.m. Monday, July 10, 2006;
12:01 a.m. Saturday July 15, 2006 to 5:00 a.m. Monday, July 17, 2006;
12:01 a.m. Saturday, July 22, 2006 to 5:00 a.m. Monday, July 24, 2006)

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, May 2, 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 Davis Drive (Y.R. 31), between Prospect Street (Y.R. 34) and Patterson Street/Roxborough Road, in the Town of Newmarket, for the purpose of constructing a pedestrian bridge over Davis Drive (Y.R. 31).
2. The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary by-laws.
3. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the Ministry of Transportation, the Chief of Police and to the Clerk of the Town of Newmarket.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement from Regional Council to authorize the Commissioner of Transportation and Works to temporarily close Davis Drive, from Prospect Street to Patterson Street/Roxborough Road, to allow the construction of a pedestrian bridge. The Municipal Act requires Regional council authorization to temporarily close roads for the purposes of construction or maintenance.

3. BACKGROUND

As part of Southlake Regional Health Centre's ongoing redevelopment, the hospital is currently constructing a 470 spot six-storey parking garage which is to be linked via a pedestrian bridge across Davis Drive to a Medical Arts Building. This full road closure is required to enable set up and take down of a crane and the installation of the structural components of the pedestrian bridge.

The pedestrian bridge over Davis Drive will not only facilitate access to parking for the Medical Arts Building, but also link the planned Regional Cancer Centre and the main hospital to the Medical Arts Building. This will enable Southlake Regional Health Centre to better serve its patients and the community by providing direct safe access between these buildings within a climate-controlled environment. In addition, the Town of Newmarket has made construction of the bridge over Davis Drive a requirement through the Site Plan and Committee of Adjustment processes because some of the parking spaces required for the Medical Arts Building are to be provided within the parking garage.

The Medical Arts Building is being designed and constructed by a private developer, but Southlake Regional Health Centre will be the anchor tenant within this building. This building will enable the permanent consolidation of the hospital's administrative services within a single unit, as well as provide for much needed expansion of ambulatory and diagnostic services. In addition, the Medical Arts Building will support increased clinical service to Southlake Regional Health Centre patients by providing needed physician office space, not only in proximity to the hospital, but physically attached.

In order to complete the installation of the pedestrian bridge over Davis Drive, it is necessary to temporarily close this section of Davis Drive to through-traffic. The Municipal Act allows municipal council to delegate authority to temporarily close roads for the purposes of construction or maintenance.

The contractor has requested the temporary road closures for three weekends. Typically, weekend traffic volumes throughout the Region are lower than weekday traffic volumes when motorists are not commuting to and from workplaces and are more accepting of the need to change their travel routes.

Regional staff and the contractor, with representatives from Southlake Regional Health Centre, have agreed to the following closure dates:

- 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 17, 2006 to 5:00 a.m. Monday, June 19, 2006, and
- 12:01 a.m. Saturday, June 24, 2006 to 5:00 a.m. Monday, June 26, 2006 and, if required
- 12:01 a.m. Saturday, July 8, 2006 to 5:00 a.m. Monday, July 10, 2006.

The contractor has committed to these dates and will carry out this work unless severe weather conditions create unsafe working conditions. Additionally, the contractor has advised Regional staff that the third weekend closure will only be implemented if required.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

4.1 Rationale for Temporary Road Closure

Where possible, Regional staff co-ordinate the construction activities to keep the roads open to through-traffic. However, it is not always feasible to maintain through-traffic because of the nature of the work. Often, it is safer and more cost-effective to complete the work under a temporary full road closure. The duration of this road closure, and the method of construction, have been discussed with Regional staff. Alternatives to the closure have been examined, and it has been determined that a temporary road closure is preferred.

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 scheduled for any work, thus minimizing public impact and disruption.

4.2 Public Notification and Mitigation

Notification of the temporary road closure will be placed on arterial and local roads at least 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 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 each closure to clearly identify detour routes. Measures will also be provided to maintain local access to residents, businesses, schools and other institutions. Property owners that will be directly affected by the closure will be advised by hand delivered flyers.

A plan has been established to allow emergency vehicles to access the hospital via the local road system. A pay duty police officer will be situated at the intersection of Davis Drive and Prospect Street and at Davis Drive and Patterson Street/Roxborough Road for the duration of the temporary road closure.

The duration period for each of the temporary road closures is scheduled for two full days. The contractor will be obligated to ensure effective use of the closure period and to minimize impact and inconvenience to the public through effective work planning and operations. The contractor will open the road to traffic as soon as possible after completion of the scheduled work.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The work and all costs associated with the installation of the pedestrian bridge and the related traffic management will be the responsibility of Southlake Regional Health Centre.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The closure of any road creates an inconvenience to the travelling public. Regional staff will undertake a number of measures to ensure that this disruption is kept to a minimum.

Signage forewarning of the proposed temporary road closure will be placed well in advance of the road closure dates and residents in the vicinity of the road closure will be advised by hand delivered flyers.

Traffic management plans for this work have been forwarded to Regional staff from the contractor for review and approval. Advertisements will be placed in the local newspapers indicating the closure location and duration. 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 to their service.

Staff at the Town of Newmarket have been involved in discussions with the contractor and representatives of Southlake Regional Health Centre and are in support of the proposed closure and have agreed to the suggested detour plans on local roads.

7. CONCLUSION

Under the Municipal Act, Regional Council may delegate authority to temporarily close a road. It is, therefore, recommended that authorization be delegated to the Commissioner of Transportation and Works for the temporary road closure of Davis Drive between Prospect Street and Patterson Street/Roxborough Road.

The closure of this road will allow for more cost-effective and safe construction work to occur. Regional staff will take all necessary precautions to ensure that the road closure is kept to a minimum and that appropriate notification is made to all that may be affected by this closure.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause was included in the agenda for the May 10, 2006 Committee meeting.)