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LANE DESIGNATIONS ELGIN MILLS ROAD WEST AND SHAFTSBURY AVENUE TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, June 3, 2004, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Lane designation signs for westbound traffic on Elgin Mills Road West (Y.R. 49) at Shaftsbury Avenue/Regent Street, as outlined in this report, be implemented.
2. Buses traveling westbound on Elgin Mills Road West (Y.R. 49) be exempt from the right-turn lane designation.
3. The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary by-laws.
4. The Regional Clerk forward a copy of this report to the Clerk of the Town of Richmond Hill and to the Chief of Police.
5. York Regional Police be requested to assist with enforcement of the lane designations, as their resources permit.

2. PURPOSE

This report proposes the implementation of signed lane designations for westbound right-turn lane, westbound left-turn lane and westbound through lane at the intersection of Elgin Mills Road West and Shaftsbury Avenue/Regent Street. A Regional by-law is required under the *Highway Traffic Act* before any such lane designation by-law can be signed and enforced.

3. BACKGROUND

In order to respond to concerns from area residents, Regional staff recommends the implementation of lane designation signs for westbound traffic at the intersection of Elgin Mills Road West and Shaftsbury Avenue/Regent Street. The purpose of the signed lane designation is to inform drivers of the movements allowed in each individual lane. This by-law will enable police to enforce each movement. A copy of a location plan is provided as *Attachment 1* with a detailed plan showing the lane designation sign locations provided as *Attachment 2*.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Elgin Mills Road West is an east-west arterial road and services an average of 17,500 vehicles per day. The posted speed limit is 60-km per hour. East of the intersection of Shaftsbury Avenue/Regent Street, Elgin Mills Road is a three-lane paved roadway with sidewalks along both sides. West of this intersection, the roadway is two lanes with additional lanes at local intersections.

Regional staff met with local residents and Regional Councillor Barrow on site to address their concerns and to investigate potential improvements. This report addresses a traffic issue that arises, in part, because of the transition from a three-lane cross section to a two-lane cross section. This transition occurs just west of the intersection and requires westbound motorists to merge into one lane. Lane designation signs will provide positive guidance and advance notice to motorists of the lane configuration and will reduce collision potential at the intersection.

A transit stop is located on the north-east corner of this intersection, where buses utilize the right-turn lane for loading and off-loading passengers. In order for buses to continue on their route, they should be exempt from the right-turn lane designation.

A copy of this report should be sent by the Regional Clerk to the Clerk of the Town of Richmond Hill and to the Chief of Police, with a request for enforcement of the adopted lane designations, as resources permit.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs associated with the manufacture and installation of the necessary sign(s) will be incurred within the 2004 Business Plan and Budget for the Roads Transportation Branch.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

This report responds to a request to address a traffic concern at the intersection of Elgin Mills Road West and Shaftsbury Avenue/Regent Street in the Town of Richmond Hill.

7. CONCLUSION

In response to a concern from area residents, it is proposed that a right-turn lane, left-turn lane and a through lane designation by-law be implemented for westbound traffic at the intersection of Elgin Mills Road West and Shaftsbury Avenue/Regent Street.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing was forwarded to each Member of Council with the June 16, 2004, Transportation and Works Committee agenda and a copy thereof is on file in the Regional Clerk's Office.)