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TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE RUTHERFORD ROAD, CITY OF VAUGHAN

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, June 3, 2005, 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 Rutherford Road (Y.R. 73) between Bathurst Street (Y.R. 36) and Dufferin Street (Y.R. 53) in the City of Vaughan as outlined in this report.
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 a section of Rutherford Road (Y.R. 73) to through traffic to accommodate construction projects (*see Attachment 1*).

3. BACKGROUND

Phase II of the Bathurst Collector involves the design and construction of approximately 3.4 km of sewer. The sewer will extend north along Bathurst Street from Autumn Hill Boulevard for about 600 metres and will then follow a future internal road alignment on the west side of Bathurst Street north up to Major Mackenzie Drive. The sewer will range in size between 1050mm and 750mm in diameter and will be constructed through open cut methods. Council has approved a pre-paid development charge agreement in connection with the advanced construction of the Bathurst Collector Sewer Phase II. Council has also permitted the Block 10 and 11 developer group to construct Phase II of the Bathurst Collector.

In order to complete construction activities, it is often necessary to temporarily close sections of a road to through traffic. The Municipal Act allows municipal council to

delegate authority to temporarily close roads for the purposes of construction or maintenance.

It is difficult to pinpoint the required dates for the temporary closures, as the 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. Rutherford Road from Bathurst Street to Dufferin Street in the City of Vaughan requires a temporary road closure for construction activities.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

4.1 Rationale for Temporary Road Closures

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

4.2 Public Notification and Mitigation

Notification of the temporary road closure 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 closure. The temporary road closure schedule 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 local access will also be advised by mail.

The duration period for the temporary road closure will be minimized by imposing timing constraints within the contract for the project. Once the road closure is in effect, efficient utilization of the time period will be an obligation of the contractor to ensure that public impact and inconvenience is limited through effective work planning and operations.

Table 1 summarizes the durations and timing pertaining to the road closure recommended in this report.

Table 1
Temporary Road Closure

Location	Municipality	Duration	Timing
Rutherford Road from Bathurst Street to Dufferin Street	City of Vaughan	2 Days *	July to October 2005

* Weekend only (preferably on a Sunday and Monday of a long weekend).

4.3 Project Closure Requirements

This project involves the installation of a trunk sanitary sewer across Rutherford Road approximately 270 meters west of Bathurst Street near the westerly entrance to the plaza (Sobeys et al). The existing sewer to be extended has its northerly terminus at the centre line of Rutherford Road.

Considering the necessity for safe slopes and working conditions the road closure option is imperative.

Once the precise date is selected by the successful bidder, the signing and communication process will commence

4.3.1 Rutherford Road - Bathurst Street to Dufferin Street, City of Vaughan

The construction of the Bathurst Collector Sewer Phase II is scheduled to commence this summer. Due to the poor soil conditions in the vicinity of the planned sewer crossing under Rutherford Road, a full road closure is recommended.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed temporary road closures are expected to result in a substantial savings in construction cost, compared to cost of maintaining traffic during construction. Funds for the works are included in approved 10-year Capital Plan for 2005.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The construction of this project will have a positive impact on the local communities through the improvement of the sewer infrastructure within the City of Vaughan.

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

Signage forewarning of the proposed temporary road closures will be placed well in advance of the road closure dates and residents will be advised directly by mail. Local traffic will be maintained at all times to provide access to residences.

Traffic management plans are incorporated in all Regional construction contracts. 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 the City of Vaughan have been contacted regarding these proposed temporary road closures and concur with the proposed closures. City of Vaughan staff will also be advised a minimum of two weeks prior to the closure.

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 Rutherford Road between Bathurst Street and Dufferin Street in the City of Vaughan.

The closure of this road 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.

(The attachment referred to in this clause was included in the agenda for the June 15, 2005 Committee meeting.)