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TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE
KENNEDY ROAD - TASTE OF ASIA FESTIVAL
TOWN OF MARKHAM

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, June 10, 2005, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Approval be granted to the Federation of Chinese Canadians in York Region to stage their annual Taste of Asia Street Festival on Kennedy Road (Y.R. 3), between Steeles Avenue and Clayton Drive, on the weekend of Saturday, June 25 and Sunday, June 26, 2005, subject to the conditions outlined in this report.
2. The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary by-law for the temporary closure of Kennedy Road (Y.R. 3), between Steeles Avenue and Clayton Drive, from 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 25, 2005 to 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 26, 2005.
3. Regional Corporate Communications issue a press release to notify the media of the temporary closure of Kennedy Road (Y.R. 3) for the street festival.
4. The Regional Clerk forward copies of this report to the Chief of Police and the Clerk of the Town of Markham.

2. PURPOSE

This report seeks Regional Council approval to close the portion of Kennedy Road, between Steeles Avenue and Clayton Drive, on the weekend of Saturday, June 25 and Sunday, June 26, 2005 to stage the Taste of Asia Street Festival.

3. BACKGROUND

In 2003 and 2004, Regional Council granted approval for the temporary closure of Kennedy Road, from Steeles Avenue to Clayton Drive for the Taste of Asia Festival. Similar to last year, the Federation of Chinese Canadians in York Region has requested a two-day weekend road closure of Kennedy Road, between Steeles Avenue and Clayton Drive, to stage their annual Taste of Asia Street Festival. The festival will commence at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 25 and end at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 26, 2005. As there will be booths and a stage set up on Kennedy Road for the event, it is not practical to

reopen Kennedy Road overnight and have everything removed and setup again the next day. In consideration of this, staff see this as a special case and not precedent setting.

A map of the closed section of Kennedy Road is shown as *Attachment 1*.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

4.1 Impacts of Kennedy Road Weekend Closure

A co-ordinated and comprehensive traffic management and diversion plan shall be submitted by organizers of the Taste of Asia Festival to address the impacts of the weekend-long closure on both Regional arterial roads and local roads under the jurisdiction of the Town of Markham.

The following are the recommended conditions of approval for the event:

- Traffic control associated with the event be carried out under the strict direction and control of York Regional Police.
- The Federation of Chinese Canadians in York Region maintains in effect, a minimum of \$5 million liability insurance naming The Regional Municipality of York and Town of Markham as additional insurers.
- A Release, Waiver and Indemnity Form be executed by the Federation of Chinese Canadians in York Region, to release the Region and the Town of Markham of any legal claims which may arise as a result of the event and the closure of Kennedy Road.
- The Federation of Chinese Canadians in York Region notify all local fire, ambulance and public transit agencies of the event and all property owners and commercial developments located within the closed section of Kennedy Road.
- A detailed traffic management plan be prepared by The Federation of Chinese Canadians in York Region and submitted to Regional staff for approval.
- Advance closure notification signing be placed on Kennedy Road north of Clayton Drive and south of Steeles Avenue, and on Steeles Avenue east and west of Kennedy Road, immediately upon approval of the road closure.
- The closure of Kennedy Road and impacts of the traffic diversion plan on local roads be approved by the Town of Markham.

4.2 Traffic Co-ordination With Other Agencies

The Region will arrange with the City of Toronto for the timing of the Steeles Avenue traffic signals to be temporarily modified throughout the day to assist in the route diversion of northbound Kennedy Road traffic.

To provide additional advance public information on the potential traffic impacts from the closure of Kennedy Road, it is proposed that the Region's Corporate Communications office issue a press release immediately prior to the event.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The Town of Markham Council is in full support of this event and aware the closure of Kennedy Road will have major traffic impacts on their local municipal streets adjacent to the street festival.

7. CONCLUSION

With the implementation of a detailed traffic management plan to minimize congestion and the impact on adjacent properties and full support of Markham Town Council, it is recommended that the request from the Federation of Chinese Canadians in York Region to temporarily close Kennedy Road on the weekend of Saturday, June 25 and Sunday, June 26, 2005 be granted.

The Regional Clerk is requested to send a copy of this report to the Chief of Police and the Town of Markham to notify them of the temporary closure of Kennedy Road. Regional Corporate Communication is requested to issue a press release to notify the media of the temporary closure of Kennedy Road for this event.

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.)