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CN OVERPASS

KEELE STREET NORTH OF STEELES AVENUE

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report, June 1, 2005, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works:

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. Staff be directed to meet with City of Vaughan staff and CN to request that the handrails on the CN bridge that carries Keele Street (Y.R. 6) over the CN York Subdivision, in the City of Vaughan, be cleaned and painted by CN.

2. PURPOSE

This report presents information on the overpass that carries Keele Street over the CN rail north of Steeles Avenue, in the City of Vaughan, regarding the painting of the handrails.

3. BACKGROUND

The improvements to the bridge that carries Keele Street over the CN rail north of Steeles Avenue has been the subject of a request from the City of Vaughan for some time now. The City requested the Region to improve the condition of the bridge, including painting the handrail.

When the bridge was constructed, it was done under Board Order 103293, dated December 16, 1960, which identifies Canadian National Railways (CN) as the applicant, and, as the applicant, CN is responsible for the cost of construction and maintenance of the bridge.

All bridges are required to be inspected every two years to ensure structural integrity. The Region engages the expertise of a consultant to carry out these inspections. This bridge is reviewed by the Region's consultant as the bridge carries the road over the rail. The inspection report, for this particular bridge, showed some immediate needs and some needs for the one to five year timeframe, these deficiencies included the wearing surface, expansion joints, railings and curb/sidewalk.

Since the bridge is the responsibility of CN, a letter was sent to CN on October 29, 2002 requesting CN to review this matter and to contact the Region to discuss an action plan to correct the deficiencies.

After several discussions, CN finally agreed to fix the structural inadequacies of the bridge, but did not agree to paint the handrail.

The handrail is quite rusty and aesthetically unappealing and the City of Vaughan is requesting that it be painted.

3.1 Work Completed

The work that was completed by CN on this bridge consists of the following:

- Modify the steel beam guiderail connection to end walls
- Replace handrail four posts
- Replace six handrail panels
- Repair to concrete sidewalk
- Repair sidewalk seal
- Repair damaged curbs

3.2 Future Keele Street Environmental Assessment

The section of Keele Street from Steeles Avenue to Highway 407 is scheduled for widening to six lanes in 2008. A Class Environmental Assessment will be completed to determine the needs and most appropriate solution for this work. As a result, Region staff and CN staff agreed that extensive repairs to the bridge were not necessary. A complete rehabilitation will be completed along with the proposed road widening and in accordance with the current board order, ie. at CN's cost.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

CN completed the works necessary to remove the structural deficiencies on the bridge. They did not paint the handrail as requested by the City of Vaughan.

In order to paint the handrail, a contract will have to be prepared and include environmental protection to retain the residue from sandblasting the existing handrail, sandblasting the handrail, repairs to handrail as a result of the sandblasting and finally the painting of the handrail. The estimated cost to complete this work is \$20,000.

In a letter to the City of Vaughan dated April 20, 2005, staff outlined possible options for painting the handrail:

- 1) Continue to pursue this matter with CN and again request them to paint the handrail.

- 2) The Region can assume this responsibility and prepare a contract for the painting of the handrail at Region cost.
- 3) The City of Vaughan can assume the responsibility and arrange to have the handrail painted.

The maintenance of the bridge, including the handrail is the responsibility of CN, but they have indicated that they will not paint the handrail. If the Region was to assume this responsibility, additional funds would be expended. In addition, it would set a precedent to improve other structures throughout the Region at a considerable cost.

As a result, it is recommended that staff be directed to pursue this matter with CN in conjunction with City of Vaughan staff.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Should staff be directed to paint the bridge railing, the estimated cost would be \$20,000. Funds were not included in the 2005 Roads Operating budget to cover this work.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The Region received a request from the City of Vaughan to improve the condition of the bridge, including painting the handrail on the bridge that carries Keele Street over the CN rail, north of Steeles Avenue.

7. CONCLUSION

The bridge that carries Keele Street over the CN rail north of Steeles Avenue has been the subject of a request from the City of Vaughan for some time now. The City requested the Region to improve the condition of the bridge, including painting the handrail. Region staff determined that the bridge is the responsibility of CN. Although CN agreed to carry out some structural repairs, they have not agreed to paint the handrail. The City of Vaughan would still like the handrail painted. Staff has outlined three options to paint the handrail and recommend that staff be directed to pursue this with CN.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.