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U-TURN PROHIBITION HIGHWAY 7 AND SADDLECREEK DRIVE TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL/TOWN OF MARKHAM

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

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. A “U-Turn” prohibition for eastbound traffic at the signalized intersection of Highway 7 (Y.R.7) and Saddlecreek Drive, be implemented.
2. The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary by-law.
3. The Regional Clerk forward a copy of this report to the Clerks of the Town of Richmond Hill, Town of Markham and to the Chief of the York Regional Police, with a request for enforcement, as their resources permit.

2. PURPOSE

This report proposes the implementation of a “U-Turn” prohibition at the signalized intersection of Highway 7 and Saddlecreek Drive, to address public concerns regarding safety. A Regional by-law is required under the Highway Traffic Act before any such turning prohibition by-law can be signed and enforced. A copy of the location plan is provided as *Attachment 1*.

3. BACKGROUND

Regional staff received requests from a concerned resident to investigate the number of U-Turns that are occurring at the signalized intersection of Highway 7 and Saddlecreek Drive. The purpose of the eastbound U-Turn prohibition is to eliminate the potential collision problems created by motorists making a U-turn to access a commercial development west of the intersection and north of Highway 7.

Highway 7, immediately west and east of the intersection, is a six-lane urban arterial roadway carrying approximately 50,000 vehicles daily. The posted speed limit on this section of road is 70-km per hour.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

This report addresses the potential collision problems created by traffic travelling eastbound on Highway 7 and making unsafe U-Turns.

These U-Turns are occurring as a result of eastbound traffic being prevented from turning directly into the commercial property due to a right-in and right-out access, and a centre raised median island on Highway 7.

In response to the requests, and visual observations made by Regional staff, it is proposed that a “U-Turn” prohibition be implemented for eastbound traffic at the signalized intersection of Highway 7 and Saddlecreek Drive.

The Regional Clerk should forward a copy of this report to the Clerk of the Town of Richmond Hill and to the Chief of Police, with a request for enforcement, as their resources permit.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs associated with the manufacture and installation of the necessary signs are included within the 2005 Business Plan and Budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

There are no local municipal impacts as a result of this report.

7. CONCLUSION

In response to requests and observations made by Regional staff, it is proposed that a “U-Turn” prohibition be implemented at the signalized intersection of Highway 7 and Saddlecreek Drive. This prohibition is intended to address a potential collision problem that is created by vehicles travelling eastbound on Highway 7 and making U-Turns to travel westbound.

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.)