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RENAMING OF NINTH LINE
TOWN OF MARKHAM

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends that:

- 1. The communication from and deputation by Tom Farrar, Chair, Box Grove Community Association, be received;**
- 2. The deputation by Jim Beauchamp, resident, Markham, be received;**
- 3. The recommendations contained in the following report, May 31, 2007, from the General Manager, Roads, be adopted with the following additional recommendation:**
 - 7. That the four-way stop condition at the intersection of the existing Ninth Line and 14th Avenue not be removed and that staff conduct a study of the area, including investigation of the current road alignment and other safety issues and intersection improvements that may be required, and report back in the fall of 2007.**

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Ninth Line (Y.R. 69), curving from the Ninth Line (Y.R. 69), south of Highway 407 to Donald Cousens Parkway, in the Town of Markham, be named Box Grove By-pass (Y.R. 69) as shown in *Attachment 1*.
2. The future roadway to be constructed from south of Highway 407 and continuing south-westerly to connect to Ninth Line (Y.R. 69) , as shown in *Attachment 1*, in the Town of Markham, be named Donald Cousens Parkway (Y.R. 69).
3. The original Ninth Line (Y.R. 69), north and south of 14th Avenue, will be transferred to the Town of Markham, and remain as Ninth Line (Y.R. 69).
4. The attached report titled “Traffic Regulations and Road Dedication” be endorsed by Regional Council.
5. The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary amendments to the by-laws.

6. The Regional Clerk forward this report to York Regional Police, EMS, Markham Fire and Emergency Services, and the Clerk of the Town of Markham.

2. PURPOSE

This report is to obtain Council approval to name a portion of the new by-pass of Box Grove, south of Highway 407, Box Grove By-pass, in response to a request from Town of Markham Council.

3. BACKGROUND

On March 29, 2007, a report titled “Traffic Regulations and Road Dedication” (*Attachment 3*) was presented to Regional Council. This report was to amend the Road Consolidation By-law R-1107-96-126 to define the road section, road name and Regional road number and amend the Regional traffic by-laws to cover all applicable traffic regulations for the changes to Ninth Line as a result of the reconstruction and ongoing development. There was some concern with the intended name of this road section and this report was referred back to the Commissioner of Transportation and Works with a request to consult with the Town of Markham to verify the road names.

The Region has received a request (*Attachment 2*) from Town of Markham Council to rename a portion of Ninth Line in the vicinity of Box Grove. This area is currently being developed and Ninth Line is being realigned to take traffic away from the Hamlet of Box Grove. The new Ninth Line will be constructed to Regional arterial road standards and will replace the existing Ninth Line in the Regional road system.

Staff of the Town of Markham and Markham Fire and Emergency Services have expressed a potential safety concern with existing and future road names in the area of Box Grove. It is now appropriate to consider renaming Regional roads in this area.

In addition, since the March 29, 2007 report was submitted, the Box Grove Community Association has expressed concerns over the removal of the four-way stop condition at the intersection of the existing Ninth Line and 14th Avenue.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Ninth Line is a Regional road on a north-south alignment located in the eastern portion of the Town of Markham. It provides a continuous route between Steeles Avenue, at its south limit, through the Town of Markham continuing north to eventually connect to Main Street in Whitchurch-Stouffville. Ninth Line also intersects 14th Avenue in the Hamlet of Box Grove creating an “all-way” stop condition.

There are several large ongoing residential developments in the area east and west of Ninth Line, between Steeles Avenue and Highway 407. As part of these developments, a new alignment of Ninth Line has been constructed that will divert traffic around the hamlet of Box Grove. In addition to a new Ninth Line, another roadway (Donald Cousens Parkway) will be constructed that will connect the existing south portion of Ninth Line to the north-east and eventually Highway 407 (*Attachment 1*). Both of these roadways will become Regional roads and have been designed to Regional standards.

Once these roadways are complete and opened to traffic, a portion of the original Ninth Line, north and south of 14th Avenue, will be transferred to the Town of Markham. In order to avoid the possibility of having two roadways with the same name, it is necessary to rename at least one of these roadways.

4.1 Naming Proposal

Regional staff has discussed the renaming of these roads in the area of Box Grove with staff of the Town of Markham. An agreement has now been reached on the proposal to rename sections of Ninth Line to avoid any possible confusion. The proposal eliminates the duplication of road names.

Town of Markham Council has requested that the new by-pass be named Box Grove By-pass. This will eliminate any duplication of the Ninth Line name and avoid all the residents currently with an address on Ninth Line from having to change their address.

4.2 Traffic Control at 14th Avenue and Existing Ninth Line

Staff has reviewed the proposal to change the four-way stop condition at 14th Avenue and the existing Ninth Line to a stop for north-south traffic only as presented in the March 29, 2007 report titled "Traffic Regulations and Road Dedication" (*Attachment 3*). Residents in the Legacy Drive subdivision are concerned about not being able to access 14th Avenue from Legacy Drive once the four-way stop is removed.

The subdivision is located in the north-west quadrant of the intersection of Ninth Line and 14th Avenue and has three access roads, two that intersect the existing Ninth Line, Rouge Bank Drive which is signalized and Winterbury Drive, and Legacy Drive that intersects 14th Avenue. With the development of the new subdivisions east of Ninth Line and the new by-pass, Rouge Bank Drive will be extended to the by-pass and the new intersection will be signalized. This will maintain and provide access for the residents to the new by-pass.

The intersection of the new by-pass and 14th Avenue will be signalized which should provide sufficient gaps in traffic to allow residents from Legacy Drive to access 14th Avenue. Staff will be monitoring the traffic in this area once the new by-pass is open to traffic and will make any traffic signal timing adjustments required to maximize traffic flow.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications associated with this report involve roadway signage. These costs are estimated to be minimal and can be accommodated within the Roads operating budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Town of Markham Council has requested that the new by-pass around Box Grove be named Box Grove By-pass. This will avoid confusion when dispatching emergency vehicles to this area and will allow all the residents currently with addresses on Ninth Line to keep their address. The recommendations in this report satisfy the Town of Markham Council recommendation and are acceptable to Police, Fire, and EMS.

7. CONCLUSION

It is proposed that the road names as shown in *Attachment 1* be approved by Council and that the attached report (*Attachment 3*) titled "Traffic Regulations and Road Dedication" be endorsed by Regional Council.

For more information on this report, contact Brian Harrison, Director, Operations, Roads Branch at extension 5205 in the Transportation and Works Department.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachments referred to in this clause are attached to this report.)