

26

TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNALS REQUEST ISLINGTON AVENUE AT PINE GROVE ROAD/GAMBLE STREET CITY OF VAUGHAN

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, June 1, 2006, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Traffic control signals not be installed at the intersection of Islington Avenue (Y.R. 17) at Pine Grove Road/Gamble Street in the City of Vaughan at this time.
2. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the Clerk of the City of Vaughan.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to address the City of Vaughan's request for the installation of traffic control signals at the intersection of Islington Avenue at Pine Grove Road/Gamble Street. A plan showing the location of the intersection is shown in *Attachment 1*.

3. BACKGROUND

At its regularly scheduled meeting on March 1, 2006, the Transportation and Works Committee requested York Region staff to consider the installation of traffic control signals at the intersection of Islington Avenue at Pine Grove Road/Gamble Street, in the City of Vaughan.

As part of the Region's annual traffic counting program, the intersection of Islington Avenue and Gamble Street/Pine Grove Road was counted on November 16, 2005, from which a traffic signal warrant was generated. In accordance with York Region's traffic signal warrant policy, the intersection of Islington Avenue at Pine Grove Road/Gamble Street does not satisfy the traffic signal warrant.

A report was prepared for the Transportation and Works Committee on April 5, 2006, recommending that traffic control signals not be installed at this time (*see Attachment 2*). The report was discussed at length resulting in some questions as to the volume of trucks using the intersection and the resulting safety of the intersection.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on April 27, 2006, Regional Council recommended that *“The matter be referred back to staff for further consideration in relation to ongoing concerns in the vicinity of Hayhoe Mills Ltd. on Pine Grove Road and Pine Grove Public School on Gamble Street.”*

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

In accordance with Council direction, Regional staff contacted Hayhoe Mills Ltd. and Pine Grove Public School to note the traffic operation concerns in the vicinity of Islington Avenue at Pine Grove Road/Gamble Street.

Regional staff visited Hayhoe Mills Ltd. in April 2006 to discuss any traffic operation concerns relating to the intersection of Islington Avenue and Pine Grove Road/Gamble Street. The assistant general manager indicated that the business receives five to seven trucks on average throughout the day and the truck drivers have not expressed any traffic concerns pertaining to the operation of the intersection at Islington Avenue and Pine Grove Road/Gamble Street.

The five to seven trucks using this intersection, in addition to the intersection count that was completed on Wednesday, November 16, 2005, make no significant change to the traffic signal warrants. Regional staff observed that the trucks take a significant amount of time to load and unload, which confirms the intersection count of one to two trucks per hour using Pine Grove Road between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

In addition, Regional staff spoke with the administration of Pine Grove Public School on May 9, 2006 to discuss any traffic concerns pertaining to the intersection of Islington Avenue and Pine Grove Road/Gamble Street. The administration indicated that a crossing guard would be beneficial for students walking to school and that increased winter maintenance of Pine Grove Road will assist buses in climbing the hill on Pine Grove Road.

This information has been passed on to the City of Vaughan staff as Pine Grove Road is a local road under the jurisdiction of the City of Vaughan and crossing guards fall under the City of Vaughan's responsibility. No comments were received by Regional staff in respect to traffic operation at the intersection of Islington Avenue and Pine Grove Road/Gamble Street.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

City of Vaughan representatives requested traffic control signals at the intersection of Islington Avenue at Pine Grove Road/Gamble Street. This intersection does not warrant traffic control signals at this time. Regional staff will continue to monitor this intersection for changes in traffic patterns and pedestrian movement.

7. CONCLUSION

This report is in response to Regional Council direction, to further consider the ongoing concerns in the vicinity of Hayhoe Mills Ltd. on Pine Grove Road and Pine Grove Public School on Gamble Street. Regional staff investigated the additional concerns pertaining to truck volumes and traffic operation concerns and found no information that would warrant a traffic control signal. Therefore, as the intersection does not satisfy the minimum traffic signal warrant conditions, Regional staff recommend that traffic control signals not be installed at this time.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachments referred to in this clause were included in the agenda for the June 14, 2006 Committee meeting.)