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TRAFFIC REGULATIONS
HIGHWAY 7
TOWN OF MARKHAM

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, July 24, 2007, from the General Manager, Roads:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The traffic regulations covering Through-Highway designation and speed limits as outlined in Tables A and B in *Attachments 2 and 3* be made applicable for Highway 7 (Y.R. 7).
2. The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary amendments to the by-laws.
3. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the Chief of Police and to the Clerk of the Town of Markham.

2. PURPOSE

This report is to authorize applicable traffic regulations for the section of Highway 7, from the west limit of Markham Road to 185 metres east of Donald Cousens Parkway.

A location plan identifying this road section is appended to this report as *Attachment 1*.

3. BACKGROUND

On January 25, 2007, Regional Council approved the assumption of a section of Highway 7, from the west limit of Markham Road to 185 metres east of the Markham By-pass (now called Donald Cousens Parkway), in the Town of Markham. This section of Highway 7 is identified as Part 1 on Plan P-1658-0369, dated January 26, 2007, prepared by the Ministry of Transportation.

Subsequently, on February 22, 2007, Regional Council approved the renaming of Markham By-pass, between the north limit of Highway 407 and Major Mackenzie Drive, to Donald Cousens Parkway. This renaming became effective April 1, 2007.

When Highway 407 was being constructed, the MTO indicated that, as sections of the highway opened to traffic, the adjacent section of Highway 7 would be transferred to the Region of York. Up to now, MTO has transferred Highway 7 to the Region from Highway 50 in the west to Highway 48 in the east. Although the section of Highway 407 east of Highway 48 has been completed and opened to traffic for some time, MTO has only just transferred the section of Highway 7, from the west limit of Highway 48 to east of Donald Cousens Parkway, to the Region.

The portion of Highway 7 that is currently under Regional jurisdiction was transferred from the Ministry of Transportation in three stages. The first stage from Highway 50 to Highway 404 was transferred on April 1, 1997. The second stage from Highway 404 to McCowan Road was transferred on April 1, 1999 and the third stage from McCowan Road to Main Street/Markham Road was transferred on September 1, 1999.

This section of Highway 7, from the west limit of Markham Road to 185 metres east of Donald Cousens Parkway, performs a Regional function and eventually will form part of the rapid transit route. As a result, Highway 7 from the west limit of Markham Road to 185 metres east of Donald Cousens Parkway, in the Town of Markham, was assumed into the Regional road system and it is now appropriate to authorize the applicable traffic regulations for this section of Highway 7.

For the traffic regulations on this new section of Highway 7 to be enforceable, they must be included in the Region's traffic by-laws. The regulations for this roadway are in accordance with the *Highway Traffic Act* and must now form part of the following Regional traffic by-laws:

- Through-highway designation.
- Speed limits.

The amendments to the Region's traffic by-law are summarized in Tables A and B in *Attachments 2 and 3* appended to this report.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

The following traffic regulations will take effect immediately and the Regional by-laws amended to include all appropriate traffic regulations for this section of Highway 7.

- Through-Highway designation, Highway 7 from the west limit of Markham Road (Y.R. 68), to 185 metres east of Donald Cousens Parkway.
- 50 km/hour, on Highway 7 from the west limit of Markham Road to 100 metres east of Wideman Street.

- 70 km/hour, on Highway 7 from 100 metres east of Wideman Street to 450 metres east of the Ninth Line.
- 80 km/hour, on Highway 7 from 450 metres east of Ninth Line to Donald Cousens Parkway.

It is essential that these traffic regulations be incorporated into Regional traffic by-laws to enable York Regional Police to carry out enforcement. Regional staff will carry out any required operational assessments and review the traffic operations on this road section. If needed, staff will make recommendations for any future by-law changes or the need to implement additional by-laws on this section of Highway 7 through a subsequent report to Regional Council.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost associated with the manufacturing and installation of any additional signage, if required, is included in the 2007 Roads Budget and Business Plan.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Regional staff is aware of the discussions of the possible name change of Highway 7 and will continue to work with local staff in consideration of any name change for this section of road.

7. CONCLUSION

The section of Highway 7, from the west limit of Markham Road to 185 metres east of Donald Cousens Parkway, performs a Regional function and eventually will form part of the future rapid transit route. As this road now performs more of a Regional than a Provincial function, and has been transferred by the Province by an order in Council, it is now appropriate to establish traffic regulations on this section of Highway 7, in the Town of Markham.

The Regional traffic by-laws must be amended to include all appropriate traffic regulations. It is essential that all traffic regulations be incorporated into the Regional traffic by-laws. These amended by-laws will allow York Regional Police and Municipal Enforcement Officers to enforce the current posted traffic regulations.

Regional staff will carry out detailed operational assessments and review traffic operations on these sections of roadway and make recommendations for any changes or the need to implement additional by-laws.

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.)