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### **INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT KENNEDY ROAD AT BIRCHVIEW LANE TOWN OF MARKHAM**

**The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report, August 24, 2005, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works:**

#### **1. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that:

1. This report be received for information.

#### **2. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to present the outcome of discussions between Regional staff and staff of the Town of Markham on the funding of improvements to the intersection of Kennedy Road and Birchview Lane.

#### **3. BACKGROUND**

At its meeting on February 17, 2005, Regional Council approved the construction of a left-turn lane and the installation of traffic control signals at the intersection of Birchview Lane and Kennedy Road, depending on the outcome of discussions between the Region and the Town of Markham relating to financing. In addition, staff was requested to report back to the Transportation and Works Committee with regards to the discussions with the Town of Markham staff.

#### **4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS**

Regional staff has determined that a northbound left turn lane on Kennedy Road is warranted. Constructing a left-turn lane at this location will provide a safe place for vehicles to sit and wait until there is an opportunity to turn left into Birchview Lane. Due to the limited number of left turning vehicles, the left turn lane can be kept to a minimum length, thus reducing the costs.

The local residents requested a traffic control signal at this location to make it easier and safer to turn left from Birchview Lane onto Kennedy Road. A traffic signal warrant analysis has found that traffic signals are not warranted, due to the low traffic volumes on Birchview Lane.

The current policy on the installation of traffic control signals is not to install unwarranted signals. However, Regional Council directed staff to install signals, and a left turn lane, at this intersection, subject to some cost sharing with the Town of Markham.

Therefore, in accordance with the direction from Regional Council, Regional staff proposed to the Town of Markham staff that the total cost of the intersection improvement be shared equally between the Town and the Region (the estimated cost of the left-turn lane is approximately equal to the cost of installing traffic signals). At its meeting on May 24, 2005, the Town of Markham's Council approved a motion that the Town agrees to fund the intersection improvements at Birchview Lane and Kennedy Road on a 50/50 basis in 2006.

Staff has included the intersection works at Kennedy Road and Birchview Lane in the proposed 2006 Budget and Business Plan at an estimated cost of \$300,000 with a recovery from the Town of Markham of \$150,000.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The combined cost of constructing the left-turn lane and signaling the intersection will be approximately \$300,000. Funding will be included in the proposed 2006 Capital Budget (\$150,000 funded by the Region with the remaining \$150,000 to be funded by the Town of Markham).

## **6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT**

Improving and signaling the intersection of Kennedy Road and Birchview Lane in the Town of Markham will improve the accessibility to the community surrounding Aitken Circle and Birchview Lane. The Town of Markham has agreed to pay for 50% of the cost of the intersection improvement estimated at \$300,000, Town of Markham share, \$150,000.

## **7. CONCLUSION**

The purpose of this report is to present the results of the negotiations between staff of the Region and staff from the Town of Markham concerning the funding of improvements to the intersection of Kennedy Road and Birchview Lane, as directed by Regional Council.

Regional staff proposed to the Town of Markham staff that the total cost of the intersection improvement be shared equally between the Town and the Region. At its meeting on May 24, 2005, the Town of Markham's Council approved a motion that the

Town agrees to fund the intersection improvements at Birchview Lane and Kennedy Road on a 50/50 basis in 2006.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.