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TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNALS THE QUEENSWAY TOWN OF GEORGINA

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends:

- 1. The recommendation contained in the following report, August 24, 2005, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works be adopted; and**
- 2. The Region of York install temporary traffic control signals at the intersection of The Queensway and Elm Avenue/Dovedale Drive in lieu of the Intersection Pedestrian Signals (IPS).**

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. This report be received for information.

2. PURPOSE

This report is submitted to provide Committee and Council with information on the request from the Town of Georgina to install signals at the intersection of The Queensway and Elm Avenue/Dovedale Drive.

3. BACKGROUND

On June 23, 2005, Regional Council adopted a report (*see Attachment 1*), of the Commissioner of Transportation and Works which recommended the following:

- 1. An Intersection Pedestrian Signal (IPS) be installed at The Queensway (Y.R. 12) and Glenwoods Plaza at the Region's cost in the Town of Georgina.*
- 2. An Intersection Pedestrian Signal (IPS) be upgraded to a traffic control signal on the provision that the property owner or another funding source pay the difference between the cost of a traffic control signal and a pedestrian control signal.*
- 3. The Regional Clerk forward a copy of the report to the Clerk of the Town of Georgina.*

In accordance with the Recommendation 2, Region and Town Staff met with the owners of the Glenwoods Plaza to discuss the possibility of their funding the upgrade of the IPS

to a full traffic control signal. The owners indicated they would not be willing to fund this.

As a result, the Town of Georgina requested a meeting with Region staff to discuss other options at various intersections on The Queensway in the area from Glenwoods Plaza to Elm Avenue/Dovedale Drive. A plan showing the location of the area is in *Attachment 2*.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Regional staff attended a meeting on August 9, 2005, with members of the Town of Georgina, Council and Town staff to discuss options for signalization in this area.

4.1 Region Staff Position

In the report adopted by Regional Council on June 23, 2005, see *Attachment 1*, information was provided on the Council adopted signal warrants and the status of each of the intersections. This can be summarized as follows:

- Intersection pedestrian signals (IPS) are warranted in the area of The Queensway between Glenwoods plaza and the Shoppers Drug Mart access.
- Traffic control signals are warranted at the entrance to the Glenwoods plaza.
- Glenwoods plaza is a private entrance therefore signals would be at the cost of the owner.
- Neither traffic control signals nor IPS signals are warranted at the access to Shoppers Drug Mart.
- Neither traffic control signals nor IPS are warranted at the intersection of The Queensway and Elm Avenue/Dovedale Drive.
- Once Dovedale Drive is extended to Woodbine Avenue and the subdivision is fully built, traffic control signals at the intersection of The Queensway and Elm Avenue/Dovedale Drive would more than likely meet the warrants for signals. The time frame for full build out is approximately two years.
- The intersection of The Queensway and Elm Avenue/Dovedale Drive does not have turning lanes. In order to construct turning lanes, an existing building on the north-west corner of the intersection would have to be removed.

4.2 Town of Georgina Request

The Town of Georgina representatives indicated that they would like the traffic control signals placed such that gaps would be created to allow traffic from the Shoppers Drug Mart plaza and Glenwoods plaza to enter onto The Queensway safely, and by placing signals at the intersection of Elm Avenue/Dovedale Drive these gaps would be created. The Town of Georgina has therefore requested that the funds for the IPS at the Glenwoods Plaza access be used to construct temporary traffic control signals at The Queensway and Elm Avenue/Dovedale Drive.

4.3 Intersection of The Queensway and Elm Avenue/Dovedale Drive

Since the intersection of The Queensway and Elm Avenue/Dovedale Drive does not meet the warrants for traffic control signals at this time, Regional staff is unable to recommend signals be installed at this intersection.

This intersection currently does not have turning lanes. In order to construct permanent signals, turning lanes are required. There is currently a building located on the north-west corner of The Queensway and Elm Avenue that would have to be removed to make room for the turning lanes. When the intersection meets the warrants for signals a capital project would be initiated to design the intersection, purchase the property and construct the turning lanes and signals. The estimated cost of this would be in the order of \$500,000, plus property.

If the Town of Georgina's request is approved, temporary signals could be constructed at the intersection of The Queensway and Elm Avenue/Dovedale Drive without turning lanes, property or building removal. If this occurs, signals would no longer be considered at any of the other locations on The Queensway between Elm Avenue and Glenwoods Drive.

The estimated cost of temporary signals at this intersection is \$80,000.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Town of Georgina has requested that the funds allocated to the IPS at the access to the Glenwoods plaza be used to partially fund the temporary signals at this intersection. The cost of an IPS is estimated at \$50,000 to \$75,000, while the temporary signals are estimated to cost \$80,000. The requested signals are not warranted and thus are not included in the Capital Budget and Ten Year Plan.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The Town of Georgina has expressed concern over the safety of vehicles accessing The Queensway from the Glenwoods Plaza and Shoppers Drug Mart and has requested a traffic control signal to assist in providing gaps in traffic to improve safety.

7. CONCLUSION

The Town of Georgina has requested temporary traffic control signals be installed at the intersection of The Queensway and Elm Avenue/Dovedale Drive and that the funds allocated for IPS at the Glenwoods Plaza access be used to construct these signals. The signals at The Queensway and Elm Avenue/Dovedale Drive are not warranted. Council

policy indicates that signals should only be constructed when warrants are met and as such Regional staff has not recommended signals at this location..

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

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