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TURNING PROHIBITION
MAJOR MACKENZIE DRIVE AND ONTARIO STREET
CITY OF VAUGHAN

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, August 25, 2004, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. A right turn prohibition for westbound traffic, buses exempt, on Major Mackenzie Drive (Y.R. 25) at Ontario Street, in the City of Vaughan, be implemented between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.
2. The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary by-law.
3. The Regional Clerk forward a copy of this report to the Clerk of the City of Vaughan and to the Chief of Police.

2. PURPOSE

This report proposes the implementation of a westbound right turn prohibition for the intersection of Major Mackenzie Drive and Ontario Street in response to a request from the City of Vaughan and local residents. A Regional by-law is required under the Highway Traffic Act before any such turning prohibition by-law can be signed and enforced. Buses will be exempt from this prohibition.

3. BACKGROUND

Regional staff received a request from the staff of the City of Vaughan, as well as concerned residents to consider implementing a “No Right Turn, 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday to Friday” regulation for westbound traffic on Major Mackenzie Drive at Ontario Street. The purpose of the westbound right turn prohibition is to reduce the number of vehicles using Ontario Street as a “through” street to by-pass the signalized intersection of Major Mackenzie Drive and Keele Street, during the morning and evening rush hour periods.

Major Mackenzie Drive is a four-lane urban arterial roadway carrying approximately 30,300 vehicles daily. The posted speed limit on this section of road is 50 km per hour. The intersection of Major Mackenzie Drive and Ontario Street is a “T” type intersection

and is located approximately 270 metres east of the intersection of Major Mackenzie Drive and Keele Street. Ontario Street is a local road servicing a residential subdivision. A copy of a location plan is provided as *Attachment 1*.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

This report addresses resident concerns about traffic using Ontario Street as a by-pass because of recurring congestion at the signalized intersection of Major Mackenzie Drive and Keele Street, during the morning and evening rush hour periods. This congestion is due to the intersection operating at capacity during this time period. Regional staff undertakes ongoing reviews of corridors for possible signal timing adjustments in an effort to minimize congestion related issues. This corridor is included within this review process and timing adjustments are ongoing.

In response to the request from the City of Vaughan (*Attachment 2*) and residents, it is proposed that a right turn prohibition be implemented for westbound traffic at the intersection of Major Mackenzie Drive and Ontario Street, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

The City of Vaughan staff have confirmed that the Student Transportation Services of York Region have school buses that are currently making the westbound right turn movement during the hours of the proposed prohibition. Therefore, a “Buses Excepted” designation for the associated by-law and signs is required.

A copy of this report be forwarded by the Regional Clerk to the Clerk of the City of Vaughan in response to their request and to the Chief of Police with a request for enforcement of the prohibition by-law.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs associated with the manufacture and installation of the necessary sign(s) will be incurred within the 2004 Business Plan and Budget for the Roads Transportation Branch.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Local residents requested the City of Vaughan to consider a westbound right turn prohibition at the intersection of Major Mackenzie Drive and Ontario Street to resolve a “through” traffic issue on Ontario Street.

In May 2004, the City of Vaughan sent a survey to the residents of Ontario Street to determine if they were in favour of the proposed right turn prohibition. Based on the results of the returned survey, the majority (76%) of the residents were in favour of the right turn prohibition.

7. CONCLUSION

In response to a request from the City of Vaughan staff and local residents, it is proposed that a westbound right turn prohibition be implemented for traffic at the intersection of Major Mackenzie Drive and Ontario Street, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, Buses Excepted. This prohibition is intended to address a “through” traffic issue on Ontario Street due in part to recurring congestion at the signalized intersection of Major Mackenzie Drive and Keele Street.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing has been forwarded to each Member of Council with the September 8, 2004, Transportation and Works Committee agenda and a copy thereof is on file in the Regional Clerk's office.)