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LEFT-TURN PROHIBITION
JANE STREET AND INTERCHANGE WAY
CITY OF VAUGHAN

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, August 23, 2006, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. A left-turn prohibition be implemented (buses excepted), for northbound traffic at the intersection of Jane Street (Y.R. 55) and Interchange Way, in the City of Vaughan.
2. The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary by-law.
3. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the Clerk of the City of Vaughan and to the Chief of York Regional Police, with a request for enforcement, as their resources permit.

2. PURPOSE

This report proposes the implementation of a left-turn prohibition (buses excepted) for northbound traffic at the intersection of Jane Street and Interchange Way in the City of Vaughan. In accordance with the *Highway Traffic Act*, a Regional by-law is required before any traffic restriction can be signed and enforced. A location plan is provided as *Attachment 1*.

3. BACKGROUND

The intersection of Jane Street and Interchange Way was constructed in late 1998 with the activation of the traffic control signals occurring on December 8, 1998. At that time, northbound left turns were not permitted at the intersection. The original design for this intersection did not include a northbound left-turn lane because of the close proximity to the Highway 407 ramps. The Peelar Road underpass was agreed to as an alternative by staff of the City of Vaughan, the Region and the Ministry of Transportation and continues to serve as the only direct access for vehicular traffic from Jane Street to the commercial area on the west side.

After discussions between Regional and Ministry staff, in September 2005, a northbound left-turn lane dedicated for buses only was constructed in conjunction with York

Region's Quick Start Program. This lane was approved based on a requirement from the Ministry of Transportation that the lane would be used by buses only. The Ministry was concerned that traffic would queue back into the Highway 407 off ramps if the left-turn lane was open to all types of traffic. The purpose of the buses-only lane is to properly service passengers on Interchange Way and avoid delays to service due to congestion at the intersection of Highway 7 and Jane Street.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

In this area, Jane Street is a four-lane undivided arterial roadway, with additional lanes at intersections, that carries an average of 33,500 vehicles per day. The physical characteristics of this area include commercial and industrial establishments with several collector roads in the area. The speed limit throughout this section of Jane Street is 70-km per hour.

Interchange Way is a local municipal street with high pedestrian volumes that provides access to a variety of commercial establishments. The primary benefit of the buses-only left-turn lane is to provide an efficient and safe route for York Region Transit and VIVA. Although the left-turn prohibition has been operational for some time now, a by-law restricting these turns was never enacted.

All other vehicles travelling northbound on Jane Street wishing to access the commercial establishments on Interchange Way are able to use Peelar Road. Peelar Road has been reconstructed to accommodate the traffic in the area and provides a connection to both Interchange Way and Highway 7.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs associated with the manufacture and installation of the necessary signs is included within the 2006 Roads Program Budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

City of Vaughan staff has been consulted on the proposed left-turn prohibition (buses excepted) on Jane Street at Interchange Way and are in support of the prohibition. No complaints regarding this prohibited movement have been received by City staff.

7. CONCLUSION

The dedicated left-turn lane was approved for buses only because of concern that traffic would queue past the Highway 407 ramps. The purpose of the buses-only lane is to

properly service passengers on Interchange Way and avoid delays to service due to congestion at the intersection of Highway 7 and Jane Street.

This report proposes the implementation of a left-turn prohibition (buses excepted) for northbound traffic at the intersection of Jane Street and Interchange Way in the City of Vaughan. This dedicated left-turn lane for buses only accommodates York Region Transit with a more efficient and safe route that saves time and avoids further congestion and delay. In accordance with the *Highway Traffic Act*, a Regional by-law is required before any traffic restriction can be signed and enforced.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause was included in the agenda for the September 6, 2006 Committee meeting.)