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ADVANCE FIRE HALL ENTRANCE WARNING SIGNAGE CITY OF VAUGHAN

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, September 22, 2005, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The advance fire hall warning system, as outlined in this report, be implemented as a pilot in the City of Vaughan with costs to be recovered from the City of Vaughan.
2. Regional Clerk forward this report to the Clerks of each of the local municipalities.

2. PURPOSE

This report requests approval of a more sophisticated advance fire hall warning signage for the purpose of warning motorists along the Regional road network of fire vehicles entering the roadway.

3. BACKGROUND

The City of Vaughan has requested the Region approve a more sophisticated fire hall warning signage configuration which includes overhead poles for the purpose of warning motorists along the Regional road network.

The City of Vaughan's Joint Health and Safety Committee identified a concern at Station 77 located along Major Mackenzie Drive between Highway 400 and Weston Road. Based upon this concern, a design for a more sophisticated advance fire hall warning system was developed as shown in *Figure 1*.

Figure 1
Typical Fire Hall Entrance Warning Sign



4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Traditionally, the Region installs ground mounted signing along the Regional road network at entrances to fire halls in accordance with the Provincial standard signage. In addition to the traditional signage provided by the Region, the City of Vaughan proposal provides auxiliary devices such as flashing beacons over the roadway located on mast arm poles. These auxiliary devices will be active while the fire trucks leave the fire hall to respond to an incident.

The City of Vaughan has indicated they may consider other implementations along the Regional road network where response crews are faced with the following:

- Wide roadways
- High volume
- High operating speed

This warning system has been adopted by the Region of Peel and the City of Brampton. Other GTA municipalities are also considering this similar warning system. Municipalities have found them to be successful in increasing public safety along heavily travelled roadways.

Other local municipalities may want to install similar warning systems in along the Regional road network. To be consistent, it is recommended that the configuration in *Figure 1* be adopted for use in all applications.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This installation is a pilot project by the City of Vaughan, and as such, the City of Vaughan shall pay all capital costs for the installation of the proposed advance fire hall warning system. The Region shall maintain and operate all advance fire hall warning systems along the Regional road network on a cost-recovery basis. There is no cost to the Region.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

This pilot project was requested by the City of Vaughan in order to increase the awareness of the fire hall to all drivers and pedestrians.

7. CONCLUSION

The City of Vaughan has requested the Region approve a more sophisticated advance fire hall warning signage configuration which includes overhead poles for the purpose of warning motorists along the Regional road network. Other GTA municipalities have found them to be successful in increasing public safety along heavily travelled roadways.

Therefore, it is recommended, the advance fire hall warning system, as outlined in this report, be implemented as a pilot. In addition, Region and City of Vaughan staff will conduct a pre and post installation evaluation.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.