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TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE – RUTHERFORD ROAD 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 Commissioner of Transportation and Works be authorized to exercise any of the powers of Regional Council for the temporary closure of Rutherford Road (Y.R. 72) between Highway 27 (Y.R. 27) and McGillvary Road in the City of Vaughan as outlined in this report.
2. The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary by-laws.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide authorization for the Commissioner of Transportation and Works to temporarily close Rutherford Road between Highway 27 and McGillvary Road in the City of Vaughan (*see Attachment 1*) to through traffic to accommodate the reconstruction of the at-grade CP Rail crossing. The temporary closure would be for a duration of two days, and where possible over a weekend.

3. BACKGROUND

In order to complete some construction activities, it is often necessary to temporarily close sections of road to through traffic. The *Municipal Act* allows a municipal council to delegate authority to temporarily close roads for the purposes of reconstruction or maintenance.

In some cases, it is difficult to pinpoint the required dates for the temporary closures, as the construction schedules often change because of delays, weather, and supply of materials. It is therefore, appropriate to delegate the authority to temporarily close the road to the Commissioner of Transportation and Works.

3.1 Rutherford Road Between Highway 27 and McGillvary Road, City of Vaughan

The proposed reconstruction of Rutherford Road, being completed as part of the York-Peel Feedermain Design-Build Contract, includes the full reconstruction of the at-grade CP Rail crossing, located approximately 470 metres west of Highway 27.

A temporary full road closure is required for this work, which includes removal and replacement of the existing track (rail and ties) and/or an adjustment to the elevation of the rail to coincide with the new grade/width of the road surface. In addition, a new crossing surface will be constructed across the full road width.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

4.1 Rationale for Temporary Road Closure

Where possible, Regional staff co-ordinate the construction activities to keep the roads open to through traffic at all times during the construction or maintenance of roads. However, sometimes it is not feasible to maintain through traffic because of the very nature of the work and it is safer and more cost effective to complete the work under a temporary full road closure.

Temporary road closures, where implemented, reduce safety risks to both the travelling public and work crews and provides a work environment that enhances quality construction. Furthermore, temporary closures significantly reduce the costs and time schedule for any work, thus minimizing public impact and disruption when applied.

4.2 Public Notification and Mitigation

Notification of the temporary road closure will be placed on arterial and local roads two weeks prior to the closure period along with advertisements in the local newspapers. All emergency public service agencies (police, fire and ambulance) and public and school transit authorities will also be informed of the closure. Temporary road closure schedules will also be posted on the York Region website.

A detailed signage plan will be put in place for this closure to clearly identify detour routes. Measures will also be provided to maintain local access to residents, businesses, schools and other institutions. Any property owner that will be affected by the local access only will be advised directly by mail.

The duration period for the temporary road closure will be minimized by imposing timing constraints within the contract for the project. Once the road closure is in effect, efficient utilization of the time period will be an obligation of the contractor to ensure that public impact and inconvenience is limited through effective work planning and operations.

4.3 Project Closure Requirements

The temporary closure of Rutherford Road between Highway 27 and McGillvary Road is required to allow for the reconstruction and widening of the existing at-grade CP Rail crossing.

It is anticipated that this work could be completed in two days, possibly over a weekend scheduled in late October or early November 2005.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed temporary road closure is expected to result in a safer and more efficient construction activity. There are no financial implications to this proposal.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The construction of this project will have a positive impact on the local community through the improvement of the road and enhancement of the at-grade crossing within the City of Vaughan.

The closure of any road creates an inconvenience to the travelling public. Regional staff will undertake a number of mitigative measures to ensure that this disruption is kept to a minimum. Staff will consult with the local municipality to ensure that this closure is co-ordinated with any works the City of Vaughan may have underway in the vicinity.

Signage forewarning of the proposed temporary road closure will be placed well in advance of the closure dates and residents will be advised directly by mail. Local traffic will be maintained at all times to provide access to businesses and residences.

Traffic management plans are incorporated in all Regional construction contracts. Advertisements will be placed in the local newspapers indicating the closure location and duration. Detour signs will be installed to properly guide motorists around the closure. Emergency services and school boards will be notified in advance of the closure to ensure no interruption in service provision.

7. CONCLUSION

Under the *Municipal Act*, Regional Council may delegate authority to temporarily close roads.

It is, therefore, recommended that authorization be delegated to the Commissioner of Transportation and Works for the temporary closure of Rutherford Road between Highway 27 and McGillvary Road, City of Vaughan.

The closure of this road will allow for more cost effective and safe construction works to occur. Staff will take all necessary precautions to ensure this closure is kept to a minimum and that appropriate notification is made to all that may be affected by this closure.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause was included in the agenda for the October 12, 2005 Committee meeting.)