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RENAMING OF HIGHWAY 9 BETWEEN YONGE STREET AND HIGHWAY 400

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, October 22, 2008, from the Commissioner of Transportation Services:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Highway 9 (Y.R. 31), from the west limit of Yonge Street (Y.R. 1) to the controlled access limit of Highway 400 (approximately 900 metres west of Jane Street (Y.R. 55), in the Town of Newmarket and the Township of King, be named Davis Drive West (Y.R. 31), effective January 1, 2009.
2. The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary amendments to the Regional by-laws.
3. The Regional Clerk forward this report to York Regional Police, EMS, Central York Fire, the Clerks of the Township of King and Town of Newmarket and to the Ministry of Transportation.

2. PURPOSE

This report is to obtain Regional Council approval to rename Highway 9, between Yonge Street and Highway 400, to Davis Drive West.

3. BACKGROUND

At its meeting of December 13, 2007, Regional Council endorsed a report of the Transportation and Works Committee which authorized Regional staff to commence the process to rename Highway 9 between Yonge Street and Highway 400.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Highway 9 is a Regional road on an east-west alignment that provides a continuous route between Yonge Street in the Town of Newmarket, through the Township of King to Highway 400 (*See Attachment 1*). East of Yonge Street, the road is named Davis Drive (Y.R. 31) all the way to the York/Durham boundary.

Historically, municipal addresses have started at Yonge Street and increased to the east and west. If Highway 9 between Yonge Street and Highway 400 was renamed to Davis Drive there may be the possibility of duplicate municipal addresses on Davis Drive. As a result, it was recommended by staff to rename Highway 9 between Yonge Street and Highway 400 to Davis Drive West to avoid duplicate addresses.

Following the direction in the approved report, Regional staff commenced the process to rename the road.

Regional staff consulted with municipal and emergency services staff

On May 12, 2008, Regional staff discussed the renaming of Highway 9 with staff of the Town of Newmarket, the Township of King, York Regional Police and the respective Fire Services. A consensus was reached on the proposal to rename Highway 9 to Davis Drive West.

Staff followed the Regional Council adopted “Public Notice Requirements”

Recent amendments to the *Municipal Act, 2001* removed the requirement to provide notice of a road name change. Notwithstanding this, at its meeting of December 13, 2007, Regional Council endorsed a policy titled “Public Notice Requirements”. This policy established circumstances in which the Region is required to provide notice to the public in the course of conducting its business. This policy applies to several items including notification of changing the name of a highway. In accordance with this policy, a proposal to change the name of a highway requires publication in a local newspaper on one occasion and personal notice to affected property owners.

The public was consulted through a letter mail out and an advertisement in the local paper

The corridor of Highway 9 between Yonge Street and Bathurst Street is comprised of commercial and business development. West of Bathurst Street, the corridor is composed of mostly low density residential development. Letters were sent to all residences and businesses along this section of road explaining the desire to rename Highway 9 to Davis Drive West and asking for comments. An advertisement was also placed in the local newspapers. The only comments received were in support of the name change.

The final step to comply with the public notice requirement policy is the posting of signage along the roadway which will be installed upon endorsement of this report.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications associated with this report involve the replacement of existing roadway signage on Highway 9 and Highway 400. Staff conducted an inventory of the existing signage that would require replacement based on the renaming of Highway 9 to Davis Drive West. The cost to replace all Regional signage on the roadway, between Yonge Street and Highway 400, would be approximately \$4,000 not including the cost to install the signs.

The costs to replace existing Ministry of Transportation signs are considerably higher. Based on estimates provided by staff of the Ministry of Transportation, depending on whether the existing signs can be overlaid or must be replaced entirely, the costs would range from a minimum of \$12,000 to overlay versus \$80,000 for replacement, including installation cost.

The funds for the replacement signs have been included in the proposed 2009 Transportation Services budget and business plan.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Changing the name of Highway 9 to Davis Drive West is consistent with the local municipal objective of redefining this road as a municipal street and not a highway. All references to this road as a highway will be removed. The recommendations in this report are satisfactory to the Town of Newmarket, Township of King and are acceptable to Police, Fire, and EMS.

7. CONCLUSION

It is proposed that, effective January 1, 2009, Highway 9 be renamed Davis Drive West. Regional staff followed the Council endorsed process to provide notice of a road name change in accordance with the "Public Notice Requirements" policy. It is now appropriate to rename Highway 9 to Davis Drive West.

For more information on this report, contact Paul Jankowski, General Manager, Roads at extension 5901 in the Transportation Services Department.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause is attached to this report.)