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NO PARKING ANYTIME RESTRICTION – METRO ROAD TOWN OF GEORGINA

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends:

- 1. The depositions by Reverend Stephen Hull and Mr. Donald Finlayson, representing Our Lady of the Lake Church, Town of Georgina, be received;**
- 2. The recommendations contained in the following report, October 21, 2005, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works be adopted; and**
- 3. Upon written request from representatives of Our Lady of the Lake Church, exemptions from the by-law be permitted to allow parking on special occasions, subject to the approval of the Director of Operations, and upon such conditions that the Director deems necessary.**

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. A “No Parking Anytime” zone be established on the both sides of Metro Road (Y.R. 78), from the north limit of Old Homestead Road (Y.R. 79) to the south limit of First Avenue, in the Town of Georgina.
2. The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary by-law.
3. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the Clerk of the Town of Georgina and to the Chief of York Regional Police.

2. PURPOSE

This report proposes a “No Parking Anytime” zone on the both sides of Metro Road from the north limit of Old Homestead Road to the south limit of First Avenue to improve traffic operations and safety, particularly in the area of Our Lady of the Lake Church. A location plan is provided as *Attachment 1*. A Regional by-law is required under the *Highway Traffic Act* before any such no parking area can be signed and enforced.

3. BACKGROUND

Concerns have been raised regarding parked vehicles on both sides of Metro Road in the vicinity of Our Lady of the Lake Church. Parked vehicles on the east and west side of

Metro Road take up a portion of the through lanes as a result of the narrow shoulders which cause vehicles travelling northbound to encroach over the centre line and into oncoming southbound traffic.

On June 15, 2005, Regional staff prepared a report with a recommendation to prohibit parking on Metro Road in the vicinity of Our Lady of the Lake Church. At the June 23, 2005 Council meeting, the recommendation was deferred until staff conducted further traffic studies and had discussions with representatives from the church.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Metro Road is a two-lane, undivided arterial roadway that carries an average of 4,700 vehicles per day. The physical characteristics of Metro Road from The Queensway to Old Homestead Road include direct frontage homes and a sidewalk on the east side of the road. The existing speed limit throughout this section is 50-km per hour.

Metro Road north of Old Homestead Road is a two-lane rural roadway with narrow shoulders and no sidewalks. Vehicles parked along this section during church services have raised traffic safety concerns for both pedestrians and motorists travelling on Metro Road.

To assist the church with parking requirements there is a verbal agreement to allow additional parking at the St. Thomas Aquinas school located off of Old Homestead Road. The church and school are connected by a sidewalk which provides a safe short walk from the school parking lot to the church.

Table 1 is a summary of the study conducted on Sunday September 25, 2005.

Table 1
Parking Study

Locations	9:45 a.m. Service	11:30 a.m. Service
Church Lot (82 spaces)	92	94
School West Lot (22 spaces)	17	11
School East Lot (34 spaces)	0	0
Metro Road East Side	3	7
Metro Road West Side	5	6

From Table 1, it can be seen that there are 82 designated parking spaces on the church property. During the services, cars are parked in aisles, at the school and on Metro Road.

The results from the parking study conducted on September 25, 2005 indicate that there is sufficient parking in the school east and west lots for church service both at 9:45 am

and 11:30 am. A maximum of 11 vehicles parked on the east and west sides of Metro Road during each service.

The vehicles on the west side must be careful when opening doors and the occupants have to cross Metro Road to get to the church. The vehicles on the east side also have to be careful when opening car doors and have to walk along the road in the travelled lane to get to the entrance of the church. As noted earlier, Metro Road has open ditches and pedestrians can not cut through this ditch.

A publication called Parking Principals by the Highway Research Board identified the following five primary hazards of curb Parking:

- The fixed object represented by the vehicle in the roadway
- Vehicles leaving the parked position
- Vehicles entering the parked position
- Occupants exiting parked vehicles on the street side
- Sight distance restrictions at driveways and intersections caused by parked vehicles

To address this traffic safety concern, it is proposed that a “No Parking Anytime” zone be implemented on both sides of Metro Road from the north limit of Old Homestead Road to the south limit of First Avenue. The “No Parking Anytime” zone will be signed and monitored by The Regional Municipality of York with enforcement carried out through the by-law staff for the Town of Georgina.

The Regional Clerk should, therefore, forward a copy of this report and the resulting “No Parking Anytime” by-law to the Clerk of the Town of Georgina, with a request to carryout enforcement of the “No Parking Anytime” zone.

In addition, the intersection of Metro Road and Old Homestead Road is close to meeting the minimum warrants for the installation of traffic control signals. This intersection will be given consideration for future traffic control signals.

When traffic control signals are warranted at this intersection, physical changes such as left and right turn lanes with tapers to meet Regional standards would be required. These improvements would eliminate any opportunity to park vehicles on Metro Road from Old Homestead Road to the church entrance.

4.1 Church Position

At the Regional Council meeting held on June 23, 2005, Reverend Stephen Hull, Pastor, Immaculate Conception Parish was granted deputant status. He expressed concern with the proposed by-law to restrict parking on Metro Road between Old Homestead Road and First Avenue, across the frontage of the church property. The deputation was received and referred to a future meeting of the Transportation and Works Committee. Staff were requested to meet with representatives of the church to discuss this issue.

Region staff met with the church representatives on September 21, 2005. The church representatives indicated that there is insufficient parking on the church property. Some parishioners park illegally in aisles, some at the school and some on Metro Road. They felt they needed the parking spots on Metro Road to accommodate their parishioners.

Regional staff discussed the possibility of expanding the church parking lot, but this was cost prohibitive. Staff also indicated the school had sufficient parking available for the overflow from the current church parking lot. Staff explained there is a safety concern with allowing parking on Metro Road.

The recommendation in this report has been relayed to the church representatives. It was reiterated that staff see the parking on Metro Road as a safety issue and the combination of the church parking lot and the school parking lot provides ample parking for church members. The church representatives were not satisfied with this response and indicated they would like to speak to this matter at the Committee meeting when the report was on the agenda.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs associated with the manufacture and installation of the “No Parking Anytime” signs is included within the 2005 Roads Transportation Program Budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Town of Georgina staff has been consulted and have agreed to the implementation of a “No Parking Anytime” regulation on Metro Road. The enforcement of this by-law will be carried out by the by-law enforcement staff of the Town of Georgina. In accordance with the agreement under the *Provincial Offences Act* for enforcement of Regional by-laws, the revenues will be retained by the Town of Georgina.

7. CONCLUSION

Regional staff met with representatives from the church to discuss parked vehicles in the vicinity of Our Lady of the Lake Church that are presenting traffic safety concerns during the church service.

A parking study was conducted at the church on Sunday September 25, 2005. The results from the parking study indicate that there is sufficient parking in the school east and west lots for church service both at 9:45 am and 11:30 am. A total of 21 vehicles parked on the east and west sides of Metro Road during both services and present a traffic safety issue for both motorists and pedestrians. In addition, the intersection of Metro Road and

Old Homestead Road is close to meeting the minimum warrants for traffic control signals. If signals are warranted at this location the physical changes would eliminate the availability of parking on the shoulder in front of the church.

It is therefore proposed that a “No Parking Anytime” regulation be implemented on both sides of Metro Road, from Old Homestead Road to First Avenue at this time. By-law enforcement staff of the Town of Georgina, in accordance with the Regional and Provincial Offences Agreements, will carry out enforcement of this Regional by-law.

The Regional Clerk should, therefore, forward a copy of this report and the adopted by-law to the Clerk of the Town of Georgina and York Regional Police.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause was included in the agenda for the November 2, 2005 Committee meeting.)