

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bill Fisch, Regional Chair and Members of Council

FROM: Bruce C. Macgregor, P.Eng.
Commissioner of Transportation and Works

DATE: September 14, 2006

RE: **Proposed Regional Sign By-law Amendments – Election Signs**

A staff report proposing an amendment to the Regional sign by-law (R-1232-2000-074) was considered by Council on June 22, 2006 and referred to the September 6, 2006 meeting of the Transportation and Works Committee. On September 6, the Committee received a delegation on the subject and a communication from the City of Vaughan.

Further questions raised at the Committee meeting require clarification. Specifically, there are three concerns:

1. Conflicts with other provisions of the sign by-law (permitting signs only over the weekend and restricting the total number of signs to 12).
2. Permitting election signs as of “nomination day” and its applicability to Provincial and Federal elections.
3. Circulation of the amendments to local municipal Clerks and registered candidates.

To address these concerns, I respectfully submit the following recommendation in place of the one considered by Council on June 22, 2006:

1. **The Regional sign by-law (R-1232-2000-074) be amended to include the following provisions with respect to election signs:**
 - a) **No candidate shall place more than one sign per corner of each permitted intersection.**
 - b) **Election signs shall be permitted 24 hours per day, 7 days per week only during the period commencing 6 weeks prior to Election Day and shall be removed within 72 hours following the close of polls on Election Day.**
 - c) **The requirement to restrict candidates to 12 signs each shall be waived.**
 - d) **The requirement for a permit and fee shall be waived.**
 - e) **The requirement for liability insurance shall be waived.**
2. **The requirements of the amended by-law be communicated to registered candidates through the local municipal Clerk’s offices.**
3. **The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary amendment to the by-law.**

For added clarity, I have attached an information sheet typically provided to candidates in the past and reflecting Council's prior decisions with respect to permitting election signs.

BCM/gl

Attachments (2) June 22, 2006 Council Minutes (extract)
Election Sign Information Sheet (4 pages)

Copy to: M. Garrett, Chief Administrative Officer
J. Hulton, Regional Solicitor
D. Kelly, Regional Clerk
L. Bigioni, Director, Government Relations
P. Casey, Director, Corporate Communications
P. Jankowski, General Manager, Roads
B. Harrison, Director, Road Operations

P02\Communications to Council\Memo Regional Sign By-Law Amendments – Election Signs

Clause No. 4 in Report No. 7 of the Transportation and Works Committee was referred by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting on June 22, 2006.

4

**REGIONAL SIGN BY-LAW
ELECTION SIGNS**

(Regional Council at its meeting on June 22, 2006 referred the following Clause to the Committee's meeting of September 6, 2006.)

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends:

1. The recommendations contained in the following report, June 1, 2006, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works be adopted with the exception of Recommendation 1 (b) which should be replaced with the following:
 - “1. (b) Election signs shall be permitted only from nomination closing date immediately prior to any election and shall be removed within 72 hours following the close of polls on Election Day.”; and
2. Staff be requested to prepare a report to the June 22, 2006 Regional Council meeting regarding issues raised by the City of Vaughan.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The Regional sign by-law (R-1232-2000-074) be amended to include all of the following provisions with respect to election signs:
 - (a) No candidate shall place more than one sign per corner of each permitted intersection.
 - (b) Election signs shall be permitted only during a four (4) week period immediately prior to any election and shall be removed within 72 hours following the close of polls on Election Day.
 - (c) The requirement for a permit and fee shall be waived for election signs.
2. The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary amendment to the by-law.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to address the issue of election signs on Regional roads during municipal, provincial and federal elections.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Regional Sign By-law

On August 31, 2000, Regional Council enacted by-law no. R-1232-2000-074 to regulate signs on Regional roads. This by-law permits placement of signs on Regional roads subject to certain limitations, including the following:

- Signs are permitted only at intersections, not along the length of the road allowance.
- Signs are prohibited at certain designated intersections.
- Signs are permitted only between the hours of 7:00 p.m. on Friday evenings and 6:00 a.m. on Monday mornings.
- No more than 12 signs are permitted for each person or business.
- Each sign requires a permit and payment of a fee of \$100 per sign.
- Provision of public liability insurance of \$5,000.

The by-law does not include any special provisions or exemptions for election signs. Therefore, they are currently subject to the same criteria as any other sign including the permit and insurance requirements.

Historically, Regional Council has permitted election signs for a limited time during election campaigns. A resolution is passed prior to the election to provide for temporary exemptions from the by-law. Generally, candidates have been required to comply with the specifications set out in the by-law but the permit requirements and fees have been waived.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Transportation and Works staff are already receiving inquiries about the Region's policy on election signs in anticipation of the 2006 municipal elections. Although Regional Council typically passes a resolution supporting placement of election signs during election periods, there is no formal Regional policy. It is recommended that the Region's sign by-law now be amended to include special provisions for election signs and that the criteria established in previous years should be applied. Accordingly, the following amendment is recommended:

- Election signs will be subject to compliance with the specifications set out in the by-law.

- Candidates will only be permitted to erect signs during the month preceding the election and all signs should be removed within 72 hours following Election Day.
- The requirement for a permit and fee will be waived.
- Candidates will not be restricted to 12 signs each, but will, however, be restricted to placing one sign per corner of each intersection.
- Election signs will not be included in the maximum number of signs permitted at intersections.

It is recommended that all other signs be required to comply with the by-law. To compensate existing permit holders for the increased number of permitted signs at intersections, it is also recommended that existing permits be extended for one month, at no charge to the permit holder.

It is proposed that these special provisions for election signs be incorporated in the Region's by-law and that the by-law be amended accordingly.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

There is no local municipal impact associated with this report.

7. CONCLUSION

The existing Regional sign by-law does not make any special provision for election signs. Historically, Council has passed a resolution on each occasion exempting election signs from the permit and fee requirements of the by-law. It is recommended that these provisions be incorporated into the Region's sign by-law and the by-law be amended accordingly.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.



ELECTION SIGNS INFORMATION SHEET

ELECTION SIGN SIZE RESTRICTIONS

Signs must be in proper repair and not exceed 1.22m high and 1.22m wide.

PLACEMENT LIMITATIONS

One Sign per corner may be placed within 50 metres from the centreline of the intersecting road (See Location Plan)

Signs may NOT be placed:

- * At any Restricted Intersection (List attached)
- * In a location which, impairs or obstructs the visibility of vehicular or pedestrian traffic, warning devices, Railway, Traffic, or Municipal Signs.
- * On any centre median, traffic island or centre blvd. within a road allowance.
- * Within 5 metres from a fire hydrant, transit shelter, or bus stop.
- * Within 3 metres lateral distance from the edge of the road pavement.
- * Within 10 metres lateral distance from a driveway pavement edge.

If safety or visibility issues occur, the sign(s) will be removed from the Regional Road Allowance.

INSTALLATION AND REMOVAL OF SIGNS

- * Installation and removal of signs is the responsibility of the Election Candidate.
- * Signs shall be permitted only from nomination closing date immediately prior to any election.
- * Signs placed in contravention of the by-law may be removed by the Region at any time.
- * 72 hours following the close of the polls all signs must be removed from the Regional Road Allowance
- * All signs that have been picked up, and not claimed, will be destroyed 72 hours following the close of the polls.

SIGN RECOVERY

Signs can be recovered from the following maintenance yards for the areas indicated: ****BY APPOINTMENT ONLY****

Southwest Yard	2850 Rutherford Road (West of Jane Street, north side) Phone: (905) 303-0875 For signs picked up in the area West of Yonge St., South of King Rd., North of Steeles Ave., East of Highway 50.
Southeast Yard	1700 Major Mackenzie Drive (Northwest corner of Highway 404 and Major Mackenzie Drive) Phone: (905) 770-7810 For signs picked up on the area East of Yonge St., North of Steeles Ave., South of Stouffville Rd. from Yonge St. to Woodbine Ave., South of Bloomington Rd. from Woodbine Ave. to York/Durham Line.
Central Yard	16042 Woodbine Avenue (Northwest corner of Woodbine Avenue and St. Johns Sideroad) Phone: (905) 895-1200 ext. 5236 For signs picked up in the area north of King Rd, South of Highway 9/Davis Dr., East of Highway 50, West of York/Durham Line.
North Yard	3525 Baseline Road (1 km west of Kennedy Road) Phone: (905) 722-4266 For signs picked up in the area north of Davis Dr., east of Bathurst St., west of York/Durham Line from Davis Dr. to Ravenshoe Rd. West of Lake Ridge Rd. from Ravenshoe Rd to Lake Simcoe.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jason Zimmerman, Operations Technologist - Roads
Phone: (905) 830-4444, Extension 5266 Fax: (905) 895-7735
jason.zimmerman@york.ca

YORK NORTH



RESTRICTED INTERSECTIONS

- DAVIS DRIVE/YONGE STREET •
- EAGLE STREET/YONGE STREET •
- MOUNT ALBERT RD/YONGE STREET •



