

15
TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE
GREEN LANE
TOWN OF EAST GWILLIMBURY

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, August 23, 2006, 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 Green Lane (Y.R.19) at the Highway 404 overpass for the purpose of constructing the proposed Highway 404 northbound lanes over Green Lane.
2. The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary by-law.
3. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the Ministry of Transportation, the Chief of Police and to the Clerk of the Town of East Gwillimbury.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide authorization for the Commissioner of Transportation and Works to temporarily close Green Lane at the Highway 404 overpass to through traffic to accommodate the installation of girders for Highway 404 northbound lanes over Green Lane.

3. BACKGROUND

When Highway 404 was originally designed, constructed and opened in February 2002, from Davis Drive to Green Lane, only the bridge to carry the southbound lanes was completed. As the proposed extension of Highway 404, north of Green Lane, commences, the structure to carry the northbound lanes over Green Lane is required.

In order to complete the installation of the girders for the Highway 404 bridge over Green Lane, it is necessary to temporarily close this section of Green Lane to through traffic.

The *Municipal Act, 2001* allows municipal council to delegate authority to temporarily close roads for the purposes of construction or maintenance.

It is difficult to pinpoint the required date for the temporary closure at this time, as the construction schedule from the Ministry of Transportation has not been finalized. It is, therefore, appropriate to delegate the authority to temporarily close Green Lane to the Commissioner of Transportation and Works for the installation of girders for the Highway 404 overpass. This work is being scheduled by the Ministry of Transportation for 2006, but could be delayed to early 2007.

Regional and Ministry of Transportation staff have agreed that this closure will be limited to weekend or night time work to minimize public impact and disruption.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

4.1 Rationale for Temporary Road Closure

Where possible, Regional staff co-ordinate construction activities to keep the roads open to through traffic. However, it is not always feasible to maintain through traffic because of the nature of the work and it is often 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 provide a work environment that enhances construction quality. Furthermore, temporary closures significantly reduce the costs and time scheduled 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 closures. Temporary road closure schedules will also be posted on the York Region website.

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

The duration period for the temporary road closure is scheduled for two days. 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.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The construction work on Green Lane is being conducted by the Ministry of Transportation. The Ministry of Transportation will be responsible for all costs associated with this road work.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Staff at the Town of East Gwillimbury has been involved in discussion with the Ministry of Transportation and the Region regarding this proposed closure and has agreed to the temporary closure.

7. CONCLUSION

Under the *Municipal Act, 2001*, 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 road closure of Green Lane at the Highway 404 overpass.

The closure of this road will allow for more cost-effective and safe construction work to occur. Regional staff will take all necessary precautions to ensure the road closure is kept to a minimum and 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 September 6, 2006 Committee meeting.)