Clause 6 in Report No. 4 of Committee of the Whole was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting held on March 29, 2018.

6
Request for Traffic Signal
Teston Road and Mosque Gate
City of Vaughan

Committee of the Whole recommends:

1. Receipt of the deputation by Karim Tahir on behalf of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Canada.

2. Receipt of the communication from Barbara A. McEwan, City Clerk, City of Vaughan dated February 9, 2018 regarding "Request for Traffic Signal - Teston Road and Mosque Gate, City of Vaughan".

3. That consideration of the following motion, in the report dated February 16, 2018 from the Commissioner of Transportation Services, be deferred pending a staff report to consider atypical situations where traffic signals may be installed when warrants are not met:

    1. Traffic signals not be installed at the intersection of Teston Road and Mosque Gate, in the City of Vaughan.

    2. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the Clerk of the City of Vaughan.

Report dated February 16, 2018 from the Commissioner of Transportation now follows:

1. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. Traffic signals not be installed at the intersection of Teston Road and Mosque Gate, in the City of Vaughan.

2. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the Clerk of the City of Vaughan.

2. Purpose

This report responds to a community request to install traffic signals at the intersection of Teston Road and Mosque Gate, in the City of Vaughan.

3. Background

The Region was requested by community members to install a traffic signal at Teston Road and Mosque Gate

On October 5, 2017, Committee of the Whole received a deputation by Karim Tahir, on behalf of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Canada, regarding a request to install traffic signals at Teston Road and Mosque Gate in the City of Vaughan. The deputation was referred to staff to report back to Council.

The intersection of Teston Road and Mosque Gate serves a community in the City of Vaughan

Teston Road and Mosque Gate is a T-intersection that serves approximately 350 homes and the Ahmadiyya Muslim Mosque. Approximately 500 community members attend service at the Mosque on a weekly basis, predominately on Friday afternoons and special events on weekends.

Teston Road is a five-lane road with a posted speed limit of 60 km/h and carries approximately 6,000 vehicles daily. Mosque Gate carries approximately 1,000 vehicles per day. Direct access to Highway 400 is located on Teston Road, approximately 500 metres west of the intersection with Mosque Gate.

A location map of this area is shown on Attachment 1.

York Region's Traffic and Pedestrian Signal Policy is consistent with the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario's traffic signal warrant criteria

In 2015, Council adopted the updated Traffic and Pedestrian Signal Policy, which directly references Ontario Traffic Manual Book 12, entitled Traffic Signals. This Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) publication provides for a consistent approach used across the province to determine whether the installation of signals would be beneficial. MTO signal criteria are based on traffic volume and

delay, pedestrian volumes and collision history. Council has authority to approve traffic signals that do not satisfy policy criteria.

Past installations of unwarranted traffic signals have been fully funded by the requesting parties

The Region's Traffic and Pedestrian Signal Policy stipulates that funding of traffic or pedestrian signals at private entrances are at the expense of the private property owner.

In cases where unwarranted signals have been approved on Regional roads, the practice of Council has been to approve this installation conditional upon costs being recovered from a third party or local municipality.

The cost to install signals at a typical four-approach intersection is approximately $200,000, subject to final design. Annual operating costs are approximately $7,800. Past installations of traffic signals have been conditional on the third party or the local municipality assuming responsibility for these costs.

City of Vaughan Council is requesting York Region fund the installation and operating costs of the traffic signal

On December 11, 2017, City of Vaughan passed a resolution requesting the Region install traffic signals at Teston Road and Mosque Gate. The resolution acknowledged the intersection has been reviewed by the Region in the past and has not satisfied the technical criteria to warrant signals. It further identified that, should the Region approve the installation, funding for the associated installation and operating costs would be considered during the City of Vaughan's Special Council budget deliberations. The City of Vaughan resolution is included as Attachment 2.

On January 30, 2018, City of Vaughan passed a second resolution requesting the Region install traffic signals at Teston Road and Mosque Gate and have them operational no later than 2019. The resolution also requested the Region fund the capital, life-cycle and operating costs of the traffic signal. The City of Vaughan resolution is included as Attachment 3.

4. Analysis and Implications

Mid-week traffic studies are carried out to assess the need for traffic signals

MTO signal criteria are primarily based on traffic and pedestrian volumes during the busiest eight hours of an average day. Consistent with industry best practices, the Region conducts traffic studies on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays, as these days are most representative of typical operating conditions. Summer months and holiday seasons are excluded as traffic patterns are irregular during these times.

The intersection of Teston Road and Mosque Gate does not currently satisfy the Region's policy

Sixteen traffic studies, representing typical operating conditions, have been conducted at this location since 2010. The results of these studies have been relatively consistent, satisfying between 43 per cent and 59 per cent of the Region's Traffic and Pedestrian Signal Policy criteria.

During consultation with members of the Mosque community, it was identified that Fridays are busier days at the intersection, coinciding with the weekly spiritual service. At their request, supplementary traffic studies were completed on Friday, October 20, 2017, and between Wednesday, December 20 and Friday, December 29, 2017.

Traffic volumes on Thursday, December 21 and Friday, December 29, 2017, satisfied the volume criteria only. However, these dates are excluded as they are not representative of typical operating conditions, as traffic patterns are irregular during holiday seasons.

Future development will add a connecting road on the north side of Teston Road at Mosque Gate, which may justify traffic signals in the future

The land north of Teston Road, east of Jane Street, is an area planned for employment business park uses. There is an approved Secondary Plan for this area that includes a collector road opposite Mosque Gate. The timing for development in this area is currently unknown.

Traffic signals at this location would introduce delays for traffic on Teston Road

Analysis indicates total delay over the morning and afternoon rush hours would be reduced for traffic on Mosque Gate. However, delay would be introduced for vehicles on Teston Road. As there is significantly more traffic volume on Teston Road, the net result would be more total delay introduced and the intersection would perform at a reduced level of service. However, outside of peak traffic hours, the additional delay would be minimal, as the traffic signal would rest with a green indication on Teston Road until a left turning vehicle on Mosque Gate is detected.

Installation of traffic signals is not recommended at this time.

Promoting safety on the Regional road network supports Vision 2051

This report supports Vision 2051 by responding to the needs of our residents and promoting safety on York Region roads through effective policing, education and sensitive design.

5. Financial Considerations

There are no costs to the Region associated with this report.

6. Local Municipal Impact

The City of Vaughan has requested traffic signals be installed at this location. Community members and residents in the area of the intersection of Teston Road and Mosque Gate would benefit from these signals. However, through traffic on Teston Road would experience increased delays.

7. Conclusion

On January 30, 2018, City of Vaughan passed a resolution requesting the Region install and fully fund traffic signals at Teston Road and Mosque Gate.

Staff analysis indicates this location does not satisfy the criteria of the Region's Traffic and Pedestrian Signal Policy under typical operations conditions. Overall intersection delay at this location is expected to increase with the installation of traffic signals. Future development will add a connecting road on the north side of Teston Road at Mosque Gate, which may justify traffic signals in the future. Installation of traffic signals is not recommended at this time.

For more information on this report, please contact Joseph Petrungaro, Director Roads and Traffic Operations, at 1-877-464-9675 ext.75220.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

February 16, 2018

Attachments (3)

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Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request