

# The Regional Municipality of York

Committee of the Whole  
Transportation Services  
October 8, 2020

Report of the Commissioner of Transportation Services

## Traffic Bylaw Amendments to Support Rapidways

### 1. Recommendations

1. Lane Designation Bylaw 2020-06, U-Turn Restrictions Bylaw 2018-06 and Turning Movement Restrictions Bylaw 2018-07 be amended to designate rapidway lanes for the exclusive use of bus rapid transit service and to designate bicycle lanes as outlined in this report.
2. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to Clerks of the local municipalities, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation and Chief of York Regional Police.
3. The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary bylaws.

### 2. Summary

This report seeks Council approval to amend the lane designation and turning movement bylaws to operate bus rapid transit service and designate bicycle lanes.

Key Points:

- Rapidway lanes need to be designated to allow exclusive use for bus rapid transit service in dedicated lanes to provide efficient service to travellers
- Amendments to turning movement bylaws are required to operate bus rapid transit service and address traffic operations
- Reserved bicycle lanes need to be designated for the exclusive use of bicycles to separate cyclists from motorists for safety

### 3. Background

#### **Council approved construction of rapidways along Highway 7, Bathurst Street, Davis Drive and Yonge Street**

Since 2015, completed rapidway sections along Highway 7, Bathurst Street, Davis Drive and Yonge Street have been approved and are in service as outlined in Attachment 1.

## **Yonge Street is the final budget-approved rapidway to be completed and in operation by the end of 2020**

York Region Rapid Transit Corporation construction schedules indicate the section of bus rapid transit project on Yonge Street from Highway 7 to 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue/Gamble Road in the City of Richmond Hill is anticipated to be completed and in operation by the end of this year. Bylaw amendments are required to allow exclusive use for bus rapid transit service and designate bicycle lanes.

## **Council has authority to pass bylaws to designate lanes for the exclusive use of rapid transit, cycling and for traffic operations**

The *Municipal Act, 2001* (Ontario) provides Council with the authority to designate lanes for the exclusive use of bus rapid transit service and for the exclusive use of bicycles to address traffic operations on Regional roads. Under this authority, Council has passed Lane Designation Bylaw 2020-06, U-Turn Restrictions Bylaw 2018-06 and Turning Movement Restrictions Bylaw 2018-07. Amending these bylaws will promote safe and efficient operation of the rapidways and are enforceable in accordance with the *Highway Traffic Act*.

## **4. Analysis**

### **The Yonge Street rapidway needs to be designated to allow exclusive use for bus rapid transit service in dedicated lanes**

Bus rapid transit service operates in exclusive dedicated lanes to provide efficient transit service to travellers. The intent of the designated lanes is to improve the person-moving capacity on Regional corridors by providing more reliable and frequent service. Amending the Lane Designation Bylaw will restrict the use of the rapidways to certain vehicle class types ensuring the rapidway is exclusively designated for bus rapid transit vehicles. Provisions for use by emergency service vehicles responding to calls as well as maintenance vehicles are included in the bylaw. The Yonge Street rapidway is the last remaining rapidway in the current provincial and Regional funding envelopes to be designated to allow exclusive use for bus rapid transit service in dedicated lanes. Council previously amended the Lane Designation Bylaw for all constructed operational rapidways.

Regional road sections scheduled for implementation of rapidway lane designation are outlined in Table 1. Yonge Street south of Elgin Mills Road is under the jurisdiction of the City of Richmond Hill. This section requires designation by the City.

**Table 1**  
**Regional Roads to be Designated for Rapidways**

Portion of Highway	Limit	Vehicle Class	Times and Days
Yonge Street (Y.R. 1) Full rapidway located in the centre lane City of Richmond Hill	From 60 metres north of the north limit of Garden Avenue to the south limit of Major Mackenzie Drive East (Y.R. 25) (northbound direction), and from 50 metres south of the south limit of Major Mackenzie Drive West (Y.R. 25) to north limit of Garden Avenue (southbound direction)	Rapid Transit buses Emergency Service Vehicles Maintenance Vehicles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective October 22, 2020
Yonge Street (Y.R. 1) Full rapidway located in the centre lane City of Richmond Hill	From the north limit of Elgin Mills Road East (Y.R. 49) to 222 metres north of the north limit of Gamble Road/19 <sup>th</sup> Avenue (Y.R. 29) (northbound direction), and 227 metres north of the north limit of Gamble Road/19 <sup>th</sup> Avenue (Y.R. 29) to the north limit of Elgin Mills Road West (Y.R. 49) (southbound direction)	Rapid Transit buses Emergency Service Vehicles Maintenance Vehicles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective October 22, 2020

**Turning movement amendments are required on the rapidways to address traffic operations**

Due to property constraints, amendments to the turning movement bylaws are required to restrict motorists from making both northbound left turns and U-turns on Yonge Street at High Tech Road and southbound left turns and U-turns on Yonge Street at Hopkins Street. These turn restrictions will address traffic operations where left turn lanes are absent. The required restrictions are shown in Attachment 2.

As part of the initial design for Highway 7 (H2West) and Bruce Street, an eastbound exclusive left turn lane could not be constructed due to property constraints, resulting in the need for an eastbound left turn restriction. On November 7, 2019, Council approved an eastbound left turn restriction to prohibit motorists from turning left from the through lane, avoiding conflicts with transit in the rapidway. As the design evolved, the rapidway has been pushed east of the intersection which has created sufficient space for the construction of an eastbound left turn lane. The eastbound left turn restriction is no longer required.

Table 2 introduces four new turning restrictions and rescinds one, requiring amendments to turning movement bylaws.

**Table 2**  
**Required Turning Movement Amendments**

<b>Intersection</b>	<b>Restriction</b>	<b>Times or Days</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Yonge Street (Y.R. 1) at High Tech Road City of Richmond Hill	No left turn in northbound direction No U-turn in northbound direction	24 hours, 7 days a week	property constraints
Yonge Street (Y.R. 1) at Hopkins Street City of Richmond Hill	No left turn in southbound direction No U-turn in southbound direction	24 hours, 7 days a week	property constraints
Highway 7 (Y.R. 7) at Bruce Street City of Vaughan	Rescind left turn restriction in eastbound direction	24 hours, 7 days a week	restriction no longer necessary

**The rapidways support active transportation with designated bike lanes for the exclusive use of cyclists**

The construction of on-street bike lanes supports a Region-wide active transportation network integrated with local municipal pedestrian and cycling infrastructure and transit (Figure 1). These lanes are reserved exclusively for the use of bicycles. The rapidways include bicycle lanes delineated from motor vehicle lanes by either pavement markings or physical separation. Amending the Lane Designation Bylaw will restrict the use of these bicycle lanes to the exclusive use of bicycles and improve safety and comfort for cyclists.

**Figure 1**  
**Cycling Lanes on Highway 7 at West Beaver Creek/Commerce Valley Drive**



The sections of Regional roads to be designated as bicycle lanes are shown in Table 3.

**Table 3**  
**Designated Bicycle Lanes**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Portion of Highway</b>	<b>Limit</b>	<b>Vehicle Class</b>	<b>Times and Days</b>
Y2.1	Yonge Street (Y.R. 1) Curbside lane City of Richmond Hill	From 141 metres south of Garden Avenue to Major Mackenzie Drive East (Y.R. 25) (northbound direction), and from Major Mackenzie Drive West (Y.R. 25) to 123 metres south of Garden Avenue (southbound direction)	Bicycles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective October 22, 2020
Y2.2	Yonge Street (Y.R. 1) Adjacent to curbside lane City of Richmond Hill	From Elgin Mills Road East (Y.R. 49) to 170 metres north of Gamble Road/19 <sup>th</sup> Avenue (northbound direction), and from 70 metres north of Gamble Road/19 <sup>th</sup> Avenue to Elgin Mills Road West (Y.R. 49) (southbound direction)	Bicycles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective October 22, 2020

Project	Portion of Highway	Limit	Vehicle Class	Times and Days
Y3.2	Yonge Street (Y.R. 1) Adjacent to curbside lane Town of Newmarket	From the north limit of Sawmill Valley Drive to Davis Drive (Y.R. 31) (northbound direction), and from 55 metres north of Davis Drive (Y.R. 31) to Savage Road North (southbound direction)	Bicycles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective October 22, 2020
H3	Highway 7 (Y.R. 7) Curbside lane City of Markham and City of Richmond Hill	From west limit of Town Centre Boulevard/South Town Centre Boulevard to east limit of Chalmers Road/South Park Road (both eastbound and westbound directions)	Bicycles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective October 22, 2020
H2VMC	Highway 7 (Y.R. 7) Curbside lane City of Vaughan	From Bowes Road/Baldwin Avenue to Edgeley Street/Interchange Way (westbound direction), and from Edgeley Street/Interchange Way to 45 metres east of Bowes Road/Baldwin Avenue (eastbound direction)	Bicycles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective October 22, 2020
H2EW	Highway 7 (Y.R. 7) Curbside lane City of Vaughan	From Edgeley Street/Interchange Way to Commerce Street (both eastbound and westbound directions)	Bicycles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective October 22, 2020
H2EW	Highway 7 (Y.R. 7) Adjacent to curbside lane City of Vaughan	From Commerce Street to Applewood Crescent (both eastbound and westbound directions)	Bicycles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective October 22, 2020
H2EW	Highway 7 (Y.R. 7) Adjacent to curbside lane City of Vaughan	From Famous Avenue to Bruce Street (westbound direction), and from 75 metres east of Bruce Street to Famous Avenue (eastbound direction)	Bicycles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective October 22, 2020

Project	Portion of Highway	Limit	Vehicle Class	Times and Days
H2EW	Centre Street (Y.R 71) Adjacent to curbside lane City of Vaughan	From Bathurst Street (Y.R. 38) to Dufferin Street (Y.R. 53) (both eastbound and westbound directions)	Bicycles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective October 22, 2020
H2EW	Bathurst Street (Y.R. 38) Adjacent to curbside lane City of Vaughan	From Centre Street (Y.R. 71) to Flamingo Road/Worth Boulevard (both northbound and southbound directions)	Bicycles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective October 22, 2020
H2EW	Bathurst Street (Y.R. 38) Curbside lane City of Richmond Hill	From Bathurst Street Connector Road to 135 metres north of Bathurst Street Connector Road (northbound direction), and 96 metres north of Bathurst Street Connector Road to Bathurst Street Connector Road (southbound direction)	Bicycles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective October 22, 2020

## 5. Financial

There are no cost implications to amend the lane designation and turning movement bylaws. Costs to install the signage for implementation of the dedicated lanes and turn restrictions referenced are included in the approved York Region Rapid Transit Corporation project budget funded by Metrolinx.

## 6. Local Impact

Local municipal staff has been informed of the recommendations contained in this report. Travellers will be provided with multi-modal travel options and improved bus rapid transit service offering more sustainable transportation options, including a more connected and efficient transportation network.

## 7. Conclusion

As construction of the funded bus rapid transit project on Yonge Street in the City of Richmond Hill nears completion, it is necessary to implement lane designations to operate transit along the rapidway corridor. Amendments to turning movement bylaws are required to operate bus rapid transit service and address traffic operations. Reserved bicycle lanes need to be designated for the exclusive use of bicycles to separate cyclists from motorists for safety.

The Regional Solicitor is required to amend the schedules to the bylaws governing lane designations and turning movement restrictions. The Regional Clerk to notify the local municipalities, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation and York Regional Police of the amendments.

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For more information on this report, please contact Joseph Petrungaro, Director Roads and Traffic Operations, at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75220. Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.

Recommended by: **Paul Jankowski**  
Commissioner of Transportation Services

Approved for Submission: **Bruce Macgregor**  
Chief Administrative Officer

September 18, 2020  
Attachments (2)  
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