

# **The Regional Municipality of York**

Regional Council  
Transportation Services  
March 23, 2023

Report of the Commissioner of Public Works

## **Request for Traffic Signals on McCowan Road at Street B and Father Michael McGivney Catholic Academy High School City of Markham**

### **1. Recommendations**

1. Traffic signals be installed on McCowan Road at Street B and Father Michael McGivney Catholic Academy High School in the City of Markham, subject to the capital and 10-year maintenance costs being fully funded by the owner.
2. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the Clerk of the City of Markham and the Chief of York Regional Police.

### **2. Summary**

This report responds to a resolution received from the City of Markham requesting installation of unwarranted traffic signals on McCowan Road at Street B and Father Michael McGivney Catholic Academy High School (School), subject to being fully funded by Stateview Homes (Nao Towns) Inc. (Owner).

Key Points:

- Markham is requesting unwarranted traffic signals on McCowan Road at Street B and the driveway at the School in consideration of operational need and area context
- Owner is pursuing construction of a new intersection, creating an opportunity to advance traffic signals before the new school year in September 2023
- Staff recommend accelerating traffic signal installation to improve school zone safety
- Council has previously approved traffic signals that do not satisfy the Region's Traffic and Pedestrian Signal Policy criteria conditional on costs being fully funded by the requesting party or property owner

### 3. Background

#### **June 2015, Council adopted the updated Traffic and Pedestrian Signal Policy**

The Region's Traffic and Pedestrian Signal Policy (Policy) is consistent with Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) traffic signal warrant criteria and directly references Ontario Traffic Manual Book 12 – Traffic Signals. This publication provides a consistent approach across the province to determine appropriate installation of traffic signals.

MTO has retained an independent consultant to review Ontario Traffic Manual Book 12 – Traffic Signals, which may result in an update to provincial traffic and pedestrian signal criteria. This review is expected to be completed in late 2023. In parallel, staff are reviewing the broader context of the Policy to advance traffic and pedestrian signals. Once these reviews are completed, staff will provide an update to Council on the Policy.

#### **Markham is requesting approval of unwarranted traffic signals on McCowan Road at Street B and Father Michael McGivney Catholic Academy High School**

In February 2023, the Regional Clerk received a [resolution](#) from the City of Markham requesting installation of unwarranted traffic signals on McCowan Road at Street B, which will connect to the driveway at the School, at the expense of the Owner.

#### **Past installations of traffic signals not satisfying Policy criteria have been fully funded by the requesting party**

Traffic signals not meeting Policy criteria are considered unwarranted. When requested, Council's practice has been to approve installation of unwarranted signals on Regional roads, conditional on costs being fully funded (installation, operating and maintenance) from the requesting party. All costs have been non-refundable regardless of when Policy criteria is satisfied.

### 4. Analysis

#### **Owner is pursuing construction of a new intersection creating an opportunity to advance traffic signals before the new school year in September 2023**

A 2018 settlement hearing at the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal, required the Owner to relocate Street B access to McCowan Road to align with the driveway to the School. A new 96 townhome residential development is being constructed at the northwest corner of 14th Avenue and McCowan Road. The proposed development is expected to generate 42 new vehicular two-way trips during the morning rush hour and 48 new vehicular two-way trips during the evening rush hour. The Owner requires approval for the unwarranted traffic signal to expedite construction of the signalized intersection prior to the school year commencing in September 2023. A location map showing the proposed development site and the requested traffic signal is included in Appendix 1.

## **New intersection does not currently satisfy the Region's Traffic and Pedestrian Signal Policy criteria**

Traffic signals at the proposed access to McCowan Road do not currently warrant signalization. A traffic impact study prepared by the Owner's consultant indicates signalizing the intersection will provide a good service level. Traffic signals could safely operate at this intersection without creating operational concerns.

## **Staff recommend accelerating traffic signal installation to improve school zone safety**

A green signal indication would rest on McCowan Road and only change to red when a vehicle or pedestrian is detected at the intersection. Installation of traffic signals will significantly reduce side street delays during rush hours with minimal added delay to traffic on the main road. Accelerating traffic signal installation will help provide safe traffic control while providing a direct cycling and pedestrian connection to the east side of McCowan Road and access to the School.

## **5. Financial**

The cost to install traffic signals at a typical intersection is about \$250,000, subject to final design. Annual operating costs are about \$7,800. Should the unwarranted signals be approved, as per Council-approved policy, the requesting party would be responsible to fully fund the installation (\$250,000) and a one-time, 10-year operating and maintenance fee (\$78,000). All costs for traffic signals not satisfying Policy criteria are fully funded by the requesting party and are non-refundable.

## **6. Local Impact**

Traffic and pedestrian signals balance alternating rights-of-way between all road users and facilitate access to local communities and private properties. Markham endorses the proposed unwarranted traffic signal.

Based on a traffic impact study prepared by the Owner's consultant, the proposed traffic signal would operate safely at the intersection and would not create operational concerns.

## **7. Conclusion**

Markham is requesting traffic signals on McCowan Road at Street B and Father Michael McGivney Catholic Academy High School to provide a direct and controlled cycling and pedestrian connection to the east side of McCowan Road and access to the School.

The requested traffic signal does not currently satisfy the Region's Traffic and Pedestrian Signal Policy. Staff recommend accelerating traffic signal installation to improve school zone

safety and have no operational concerns, subject to being fully funded by Stateview Homes (Nao Towns) Inc., the Owner.

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

Recommended by:   
**Erin Mahoney, M. Eng.**  
Commissioner of Public Works

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

March 13, 2023  
15006505

Appendix 1 – Location Map

