

The Regional Municipality of York

Committee of the Whole
Transportation Services
April 13, 2023

Report of the Commissioner of Public Works

Request for Pedestrian Signal Highway 11 at The Landing Town of East Gwillimbury

1. Recommendations

1. A pedestrian signal be installed on Highway 11 at The Landing in the Town of East Gwillimbury.
2. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the Clerk of the Town of East Gwillimbury and Chief of York Regional Police.

2. Summary

This report seeks Council approval to install a pedestrian signal on Highway 11 at the entrance to The Landing (formerly Blue Door Shelter), an emergency and transition housing complex for adult men and families at 18838 Highway 11, in the Town of East Gwillimbury.

Key Points:

- There are currently no sidewalks on either side of Highway 11 at this location for residents of The Landing who rely on walking, cycling or public transit as their main mode of transportation. Town of East Gwillimbury requested the Region include construction of a multi-use path on the east side of Highway 11 from north of Green Lane to Sherwood Glen/Dog Wood Boulevard in the Region's Yonge Street/Highway 11 reconstruction project
- Upcoming reconstruction project on Yonge Street/Highway 11 presents an opportunity to introduce a pedestrian signal for residents of The Landing to access the future multi-use path that connects to amenities, transit and parks
- Staff recommend installation of the pedestrian signal to help improve safety, connectivity and there are no operational concerns

3. Background

The Landing provides emergency and transitional housing for more than 80 residents

The Landing is located on the west side of Highway 11, 670 metres south of Sherwood Glen/Dog Wood Boulevard in the Town of East Gwillimbury (Appendix A). The Landing provides approximately 110 emergency and transitional housing beds and case management supports for adult men and families. There are three buildings on the property owned by Housing York Inc. The buildings are operated by Blue Door Support Services on behalf of the Region.

Residents of The Landing walk from the site to the Towns of East Gwillimbury or Bradford often with safety concerns because of the lack of lighting and sidewalks along Yonge Street/Highway 11. In addition, school buses pull into the property to pick up/drop off students staying at the family shelter. The pedestrian signal will provide a safer, controlled crossing of Highway 11 in this area for residents walking to and from The Landing.

A multi-use path will be constructed on the east side of Yonge Street/Highway 11 from Green Lane to Sherwood Glen/Dog Wood Boulevard in 2025

Region is currently undertaking design for the reconstruction of Yonge Street/Highway 11 from north of Green Lane to the Town of Bradford boundary. This project is included in the 2023 10-Year Capital Program and is expected to be tendered in fall 2023 for construction in 2024/2025. Town of East Gwillimbury requested the Region include design and construction of a multi-use path and associated lighting, at the Town's expense, on Yonge Street/Highway 11 from north of Green Lane to Sherwood Glen/Dog Wood Boulevard as part of the Region's upcoming construction contract.

The multi-use path is being proposed on the east side of Yonge Street/Highway 11 to service a new residential community consisting of more than 1,200 occupied units and another 500+ residential units proposed in the next five years, along with a potential elementary school, place of worship, community centre and ground-floor retail.

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 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 and may result in changes. 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.

4. Analysis

Intersection of Highway 11 at The Landing does not currently satisfy the Region’s Traffic and Pedestrian Signal Policy criteria

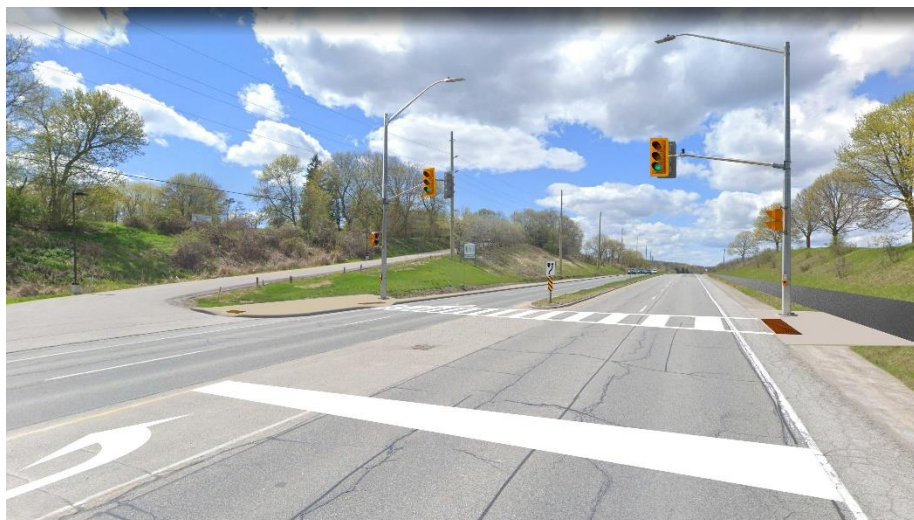
Results of the traffic and pedestrian study conducted in December 2022 show about 10 pedestrians either crossing or walking along Highway 11 daily at the entrance to The Landing. Policy criteria requires 200 pedestrians to justify a pedestrian signal or 100 pedestrians to justify a pedestrian crossover. Based on an observed annual growth rate of 2.5% along this section of Yonge Street/Highway 11, pedestrian signals are projected to warrant beyond 10 years.

Over the past ten years, two pedestrian-related incidents have taken place on Highway 11 near The Landing, one of which resulted in a fatality. Both pedestrian-related collisions occurred during the nighttime on the west side of the road. Through an upcoming road reconstruction project, there is an opportunity to improve pedestrian safety and increase visibility.

Residents of The Landing will benefit from a pedestrian signal to access future multi-use path connecting to amenities, transit and parks

Residents of The Landing rely on walking, cycling or public transit as their main mode of transportation. Currently, there are no sidewalks, existing or proposed, on the west side of Highway 11 at this location. To access the nearest amenities, transit and parks, mainly located on the east side of Yonge Street/Highway 11, pedestrians/cyclists from The Landing must travel along the narrow, paved shoulders adjacent to high-speed vehicular traffic, before crossing at the next closest pedestrian crossing opportunity, located at Sherwood Glen/Dog Wood Boulevard (650 metres away) or Morning Sideroad/Yonge Street (750 metres away).

Figure 1
Concept of Pedestrian Signal at The Landing



Staff recommend a pedestrian signal to help improve safety, connectivity and there are no operational concerns

The upcoming reconstruction/multi-use path project on Yonge Street/Highway 11 presents an opportunity to introduce a pedestrian signal with direct access to the future multi-use path. Constructing a pedestrian signal in conjunction with the multi-use path will align with anticipated growth in pedestrian and cycling volumes over the next five years as the surrounding community continues to develop.

The proposed pedestrian signal on Highway 11 at The Landing would continuously display a green signal indication for motorists until a pedestrian presses the crossing button. The signal will then display a red indication for about 35 seconds to allow adequate time for pedestrians to cross safely. The estimated delay per vehicle during the morning and evening rush hours is approximately five seconds per vehicle, which is negligible in comparison to a typical traffic signal operation.

5. Financial

The cost to install pedestrian signals is about \$150,000, subject to final design. Annual operating costs are about \$2,000. Costs are included in the approved 2023 Public Works Capital Budget.

Design and construction of the multi-use path will be implemented through the Region's Yonge Street/Highway 11 reconstruction project. Costs for this path will be borne by the Town of East Gwillimbury.

6. Local Impact

A pedestrian signal on Highway 11 at The Landing can operate safely and will not create operational concerns. Local municipal staff have been consulted and support installation of the proposed pedestrian signal.

7. Conclusion

The upcoming reconstruction/multi-use path project on Yonge Street/Highway 11 presents an opportunity to introduce a pedestrian signal at The Landing. Residents will benefit from a pedestrian signal to access the future multi-use path connecting to amenities, transit and parks.

The requested pedestrian signal does not currently satisfy the Region's Traffic and Pedestrian Signal Policy criteria. However, staff recommend a pedestrian signal be installed on Highway 11 at The Landing to help improve safety, connectivity, forecasted demand and have no operational concerns.

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 24, 2023
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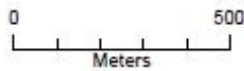
Appendix A – Location Map








**Request for Pedestrian Signal
Highway 11 at The Landing
Town of East Gwillimbury**

Location Map
April 13, 2023

Produced by:
Roads and Traffic Operations
Transportation Services
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Legend

-  Regional Road
-  Local Road
-  Planned Multi-use Path
-  Railroad
-  Existing Traffic Signals



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