

The Regional Municipality of York

Committee of the Whole
Transportation Services
November 7, 2019

Report of the Commissioner of Transportation Services

Lane Designations to Operate Rapidways in the Cities of Richmond Hill and Vaughan and Town of Newmarket

1. Recommendations

1. The existing Lane Designation Bylaw 2019-38 be amended to designate newly-constructed bus rapidway lanes as outlined in Table 1.
2. The existing Turning Movement Restrictions Bylaw 2018-07 be amended to implement an eastbound anytime left turn restriction on Highway 7 (Y.R. 7) at Bruce Street, in the City of Vaughan.
3. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to Clerks of the Cities of Richmond Hill and Vaughan and Town of Newmarket, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation and Chief of York Regional Police.
4. The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary bylaws.

2. Summary

This report seeks Council approval to designate lanes and a left turn restriction on Regional roads to operate bus rapid transit service.

Key Points:

- Rapidway lanes need to be designated to allow exclusive use for Viva bus rapid transit service in dedicated lanes to provide efficient service to travellers
- An eastbound anytime left turn restriction to be implemented on Highway 7 at Bruce Street to ensure safe traffic operations

3. Background

Viva service operates in exclusive dedicated lanes to provide efficient bus rapid transit service to travellers

Rapidway lanes are dedicated lanes for bus rapid transit service. The service operates in the centre of the road, allowing Viva buses to move out of mixed traffic lanes. Rapid transit service maximizes the person-moving capacity of the Region's busiest corridors.

Additional bus rapid transit projects are planned to be completed and in operation by the end of 2019

York Region Rapid Transit Corporation construction schedules indicate additional planned sections of bus rapid transit projects (H2 East, H2 West and Y3.2) in the Cities of Richmond Hill and Vaughan and the Town of Newmarket are anticipated to be completed and in operation in December of this year. Portions of the following Regional roads need to be designated to allow exclusive use for Viva bus rapid transit service:

- Bathurst Street
- Centre Street
- Highway 7
- Yonge Street

4. Analysis

Rapidway lanes need to be designated to allow exclusive use for Viva bus rapid transit service in dedicated lanes

Rapidway lanes are designed for Viva bus rapid transit service use. The intent of these 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 lane designation bylaw is enforceable in accordance with the *Highway Traffic Act*.

Table 1 outlines Regional road sections scheduled for implementation of rapidway lane designation. Location maps are included as Attachments 1 to 3.

Table 1
Regional Roads to be Designated for Rapidways

BRT Project	Portion of Highway	Limit	Vehicle Class	Times or Days
H2 East	Bathurst Street (Y.R. 38) Partial southbound rapidway located in the centre lane Cities of Richmond Hill and Vaughan	Bathurst Street (Y.R. 38) 200 metres south of the Connector Road (Y.R. 7) to north limit of Flamingo Road/Worth Boulevard	Rapid Transit buses Emergency Services Maintenance Vehicles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective December 2019
H2 East	Bathurst Street (Y.R. 38) Full rapidway located in the centre lane City of Vaughan	South limit of Flamingo Road/Worth Boulevard to north limit of Centre Street (Y.R. 71)	Rapid Transit buses Emergency Service Vehicles Maintenance Vehicles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective December 2019
H2 East	Centre Street (Y.R. 71) Full rapidway located in the centre lane City of Vaughan	West limit of Bathurst Street (Y.R. 38) to east limit of Highway 407	Rapid Transit buses Emergency Service Vehicles Maintenance Vehicles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective December 2019
H2 East	Centre Street (Y.R. 71) Partial rapidway located in the centre lane City of Vaughan	West limit of Highway 407 to east limit of Highway 7 (Y.R. 7)	Rapid Transit buses Emergency Service Vehicles Maintenance Vehicles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective December 2019

BRT Project	Portion of Highway	Limit	Vehicle Class	Times or Days
H2 West	Highway 7 (Y.R. 7) Full rapidway located in the centre lane City of Vaughan	West limit of Edgeley Boulevard to 100 metres east of Bruce Street	Rapid Transit buses Emergency Service Vehicles Maintenance Vehicles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective December 2019
Y3.2	Yonge Street (Y.R. 1) Full rapidway located in the centre lane Town of Newmarket	South limit of Savage Road /Sawmill Valley Drive to south limit of Davis Drive (Y.R. 31)	Rapid Transit buses Emergency Service Vehicles Maintenance Vehicles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective December 2019

An eastbound anytime left turn restriction is required on Highway 7 at Bruce Street to ensure safe traffic operations

The intersection of Highway 7 at Bruce Street, in the City of Vaughan, is a T-intersection with Bruce Street connecting from the south side. A private residential driveway access on the north side of Highway 7 is located within the intersection. Due to property constraints on the west side of the intersection, a dedicated eastbound left turn lane could not be included as part of the intersection reconstruction.

A bylaw is required to restrict motorists from making an eastbound left turn from a through lane. Without the restriction, significant delays for travellers on Highway 7 and the potential for rear-end collisions could be experienced. The property owner has been informed of the proposed eastbound anytime left turn restriction as shown in Attachment 2. The property can be accessed in the eastbound direction by making a U-turn at the signalized intersection of Highway 7 and Wigwoss Drive/Helen Street.

5. Financial

There is no financial impact associated with designating lanes referenced in this report for the use of certain vehicle classes. Costs to install the required signage for implementation of the dedicated lanes and turn restriction 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 improved rapid transit service offering more sustainable transportation options, including a more connected and efficient transportation network.

7. Conclusion

As construction of bus rapid transit projects near completion on portions of Bathurst Street, Centre Street and Highway 7 in the Cities of Richmond Hill and Vaughan and Yonge Street in the Town of Newmarket, it is necessary to implement lane designations and turn restrictions to operate transit along these rapidway corridors. Revisions to the Lane Designation and Turning Movement Restrictions Bylaws are required to support bus rapid transit service.

Staff recommends the sections of Regional roads outlined in this report be designated for the exclusive use of bus rapid transit vehicles and the anytime left turn restriction outlined be implemented to support safe traffic operations.

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 Cities of Richmond Hill and Vaughan, Town of Newmarket, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation and York Regional Police of the amendments.

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: **Paul Jankowski**
Commissioner of Transportation Services

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

October 30, 2019
Attachments (3)
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