

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 25, 2013

11 TRAFFIC OPERATIONS REVIEW
VELMAR DRIVE FROM RUTHERFORD ROAD TO ORR AVENUE/VILLAGE GREEN DRIVE
WARD 3

Recommendation

1. That By-law 1-96, the Consolidated Parking By-law, be amended to remove the existing 'No Stopping' prohibition from 6:00am to 6:00pm, on the east side of Velmar Drive, from Rutherford Road to 105 metres south of Rutherford Road; and
2. That By-law 1-96, the Consolidated Parking By-law, be amended to remove the existing 'No Stopping' prohibition anytime, on the west side of Velmar Drive from Rutherford Road to 283 metres south of Rutherford Road.

Not Applicable.

Not Applicable.

Engineering Services staff will advise the owners of Velmar Centre and area residents of the outcome of Council's decision in this matter.

The purpose of this report is to address Council's direction from its meeting held on February 5, 2013. Refer to Attachment No. 1.

“That staff undertake a traffic study on Velmar Drive from Rutherford Road to Orr Avenue and report back their findings to a future Committee of the Whole Meeting.”

Velmar Drive is a minor collector roadway with a 23.0 metre right-of-way, an 11.5 metre pavement width, and sidewalks along both sides of the roadway. The road extends from Rutherford Road to Village Green Drive and is one of the primary roads within the Weston Downs community. The section between Rutherford Road and Orr Avenue/ Village Green Drive has existing traffic calming measures consisting of two speed humps. Velmar Downs Park is located along the west side of Velmar Drive.

The intersection of Velmar Drive and Orr Avenue/Village Green Drive is under all-way stop control with intersection medians. Refer to Attachment No. 2.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 25, 2013

Item 11, CW Report No. 28 – Page 2

The 'No Stopping' prohibitions on Velmar Drive were first implemented in 1999 and modified later that year

In January 1999, the local area councillor made recommendation to Council that stopping prohibitions be implemented on both the west and east sides of Velmar Drive from Rutherford Road to Orr Avenue, as a result of resident's concerns of idling construction and other heavy vehicles within the community. Refer to Attachment No. 3.

At a subsequent Council meeting held on March 22, 1999, the limits of the stopping prohibition were modified to their current configuration. Refer to Attachment No. 4.

Recent traffic studies have identified that the 'No Stopping' prohibitions on Velmar Drive have not been effective at improving traffic operations

In February 2013, a Member's Resolution noted that area residents were concerned with general accessibility on Velmar Drive as a result of the existing stopping prohibitions between Rutherford Road and Orr Avenue/ Village Green Drive.

A traffic study was conducted on April 23, 2013 from 7:00 – 9:00 a.m. and from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. The study results show that three vehicles stopped within the no stopping zone on the west side of Velmar Drive (for a very short duration in the morning), and two vehicles parked on each side of Velmar Drive in the afternoon. No traffic related, operational issues were observed during the study.

Patrons of the coffee shop that was located within Velmar Centre Plaza, contributed to the heavy truck parking in 2001. The coffee shop is no longer operating in the plaza, and residential construction within the Weston Downs community is complete. Although no heavy trucks stopped on Velmar Drive during the recent traffic study, staff recommended the existing heavy truck prohibition remain to prevent truck traffic associated with Velmar Centre Plaza from travelling through the established residential neighbourhood.

Removal of the 'No Stopping' prohibitions on Velmar Drive will provide additional on-street parking to the Velmar Downs Park and have minimal impact on roadway operations

Public highways are intended for all road users; balancing the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists is critical. In this regard, prohibitions should only be used as a tool to mitigate operational or safety issues. Traffic study results along Velmar Drive, from Rutherford Road to Orr Avenue/ Village Green Drive, demonstrate that the existing 'No Stopping Prohibition' is currently not effective. Removal of the existing 'No Stopping' prohibition along Velmar Drive will not create additional operational or safety concerns.

Removal of the existing 'No Stopping' prohibition will also provide additional on-street parking supply of 29 spaces, 24 along the west side and 5 on the east side of Velmar Drive. Refer to Attachment No. 5. This additional on-street parking will improve accessibility to Velmar Downs Park for area residents. The additional parking will also increase the supply of short-term spaces for abutting property owners and their visitors, where supply on private driveways is limited by the existing sidewalks.

In view of the above, staff recommend removal of the existing 'No Stopping Prohibition' on both sides of Velmar Drive between Rutherford Road and Orr Avenue/ Village Green Drive.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, the recommended

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 25, 2013

Item 11, CW Report No. 28 – Page 3

removal of the existing 'No Stopping' prohibitions on both sides of Velmar Drive will provide additional on-street parking adjacent to Velmar Downs Park, thus enhancing community safety and design.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council.

Regional Implications

Not Applicable.

Conclusion

It is recommended that the existing 'No Stopping' prohibition 6:00 am to 6:00 pm, on the east side of Velmar Drive, from Rutherford Road to 105 metres south of Rutherford Road, and Anytime, on the west side of Velmar Drive from Rutherford Road to 283 metres south of Rutherford Road, be removed.

Attachments

1. Extract from Council Meeting Minutes of February 19, 2013, Item 15, Report No. 5 of the Committee of the Whole.
2. Location Map
3. Extract from Council Meeting Minutes of January 11, 1999, Item 1, Report No. 1 of the Committee of the Whole.
4. Extract from Council Meeting Minutes of March 22, 1999, Minute No. 87
5. Proposed No Stopping Prohibition Removal Detail

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(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)