

**CITY OF VAUGHAN**

**EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 24, 2014**

Item 31, Report No. 30, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 24, 2014.

**31**

**TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE  
MERINO ROAD FROM KEELE STREET TO RYDER ROAD  
WARD 1**

**The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works and the Director Engineering Services, dated June 17, 2014:**

**Recommendation**

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works and the Director Engineering Services recommend:

1. That the necessary by-law be passed authorizing the temporary closure of Merino Road, from 40 metres west of Keele Street to 40 metres east of Ryder Road, for the purpose of replacing the Merino Road culvert, which is tentatively scheduled to occur between August 5, 2014 and December 12, 2014 inclusive.

**Contribution to Sustainability**

An integral part of a sustainable city is effective asset management. Through infrastructure investments, the risk of failure is reduced and system reliability improved, providing optimal service to residents. The proposed temporary road closure, to facilitate the replacement of the Merino Road culvert, will maximize the return on the City's capital and operating investments and ensure that an acceptable level of service is maintained for the health and well-being of its citizens.

**Economic Impact**

There are no immediate economic impacts resulting from the adoption of this report.

**Communications Plan**

A comprehensive communication plan will be implemented to inform all residents of the proposed temporary closure of Merino Road and related detour routes within the community. This communication plan will include written notification of the road closure to the area property owners and stakeholders, including emergency public service agencies, (police, fire and ambulance).

Access Vaughan will be provided with information regarding the closure and associated contact information, in order to effectively respond to enquiries from the general public. The construction contractor will be responsible for the installation and maintenance of all barricades and construction signage, in order to provide pedestrian and cyclist safety and local access around the construction area. Appropriately worded road side signage will be installed a minimum of two weeks prior to the road closure as a means of informing the public of the temporary road closure, in accordance with the Ontario Traffic Manual, Book 7.

Access to two properties along this section of Merino Road will be partially affected by the road closure. Both properties currently have two driveway entrances. The access to the west driveway at 9796 Keele Street will be obstructed, and driveway access at 8 Merino Road will be partially obstructed. Please refer to Attachment No. 1 – Location Plan. The property owners of both 9796

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Keele Street and 8 Merino Road have been contacted by City staff and advised of the accessibility issues associated with the road closure.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to the temporary closure of Merino Road to facilitate the timely and efficient replacement of the culvert.

#### **Background - Analysis and Options**

##### **The Merino Road culvert was identified in June 2010 for replacement**

The Merino Road culvert is located approximately 80 metres west of Keele Street within the City. The existing structure is a concrete box culvert, 3.1 metres wide, 1.6 metres high and 19.5 metres in length. In June 2010, as part of the City's biennial bridge inspection program, the culvert was identified for replacement as a result of advanced deterioration that could not be rehabilitated.

The new culvert design addresses recommendations of the Historic Maple Storm Drainage Improvements Study conducted in 2007, which recommended increasing the capacity of the culvert to accommodate higher intensity rainfall events.

The Merino Road culvert construction tender is scheduled to close in early July 2014.

##### **The excavation needed to replace the culvert will impact the full width of the roadway and sidewalk area, necessitating the need for a road closure**

In October 2012, the Engineering Services Department retained an engineering consultant to complete the design and tender package for the culvert replacement. During the preliminary design phase, it was determined that the most cost effective method of completing the culvert reconstruction on Merino Road was to excavate the entire width of the road, including the sidewalk area. This method of construction would also result in the shortest duration. As a result, a temporary road closure was deemed necessary.

##### **A temporary road closure will significantly reduce the construction period and ensure safety to the public and workers**

The option of keeping the road open to traffic was reviewed by the City's engineering consultant and City staff. It was determined that having a partial road closure would increase the construction time and cost considerably, due to the numerous and time consuming traffic staging requirements. By temporarily closing the road, the construction period would be reduced by as much as 3 to 4 months. As the work area is very constrictive, a partially open road would require a larger construction staging area that would impact a larger number of properties. In addition, having a partially closed road in this constrictive construction area may result in potential safety concerns, to both the public and workers on-site. The large construction equipment (i.e. lifting crane) required, would be in close proximity to vehicles and pedestrians, exposing the public and workers to potential safety risks.

After exploring the available construction methods, processes and staging alternatives for this work, staff concur that a temporary road closure is the best option for this project, as it will greatly reduce the time required for construction and provide improved safety conditions to the general public.

##### **There are various detour routes available to the community and a traffic management plan has been developed**

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The overall duration for the reconstruction of the culvert and all restoration is expected to take approximately 17 weeks to complete (commencing in August), weather permitting. However, the closure of Merino Road only will be required for a period of approximately 8 to 12 weeks within the overall project.

The road network in the Historic Maple area provides reasonable alternatives for detour routes to both Keele Street and Major Mackenzie Drive. Appropriate road and detour signage will be installed to direct traffic through alternate streets within the neighborhood, two weeks in advance of the commencement of construction.

The consulting engineer has prepared a detailed traffic management plan for the temporary road closure to the satisfaction of the City. Closure signage and barricades will be installed and maintained by the contractor along Keele Street, Merino Road, Ryder Road and Goodman Crescent, as a means of notifying the public of the closure period, together with the appropriate detour route information signage. The culvert replacement will be carried out in a timely manner to help mitigate traffic impacts resulting from this construction.

#### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan**

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, the temporary road closure to facilitate the culvert reconstruction will assist in enhancing and maintaining community safety, health and wellbeing, by ensuring that an appropriate level of service for the condition of structures are maintained for the citizens of Vaughan.

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

#### **Regional Implications**

York Region will be notified of this road closure to ensure they are aware of potential impacts to traffic which enters this area from Keele Street. York Region Transit will not be impacted, as it does not have a bus route on this section of road.

#### **Conclusion**

To facilitate the reconstruction of the culvert, it is recommended that a by-law be passed to provide for the temporary road closure of a section of Merino Road during the period between August 5, 2014 and December 12, 2014 inclusive.

A comprehensive communication plan will be implemented to inform all stakeholders of this temporary road closure as set out in this report. In addition, Engineering Services staff will monitor the culvert reconstruction to ensure the works are completed in an appropriate manner.

#### **Attachments**

1. Location Plan

#### **Report prepared by:**

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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.)