

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 21, 2017

Item 7, Report No. 39, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on November 21, 2017.

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'U-TURN' PROHIBITION REVIEW SWEETRIVER BOULEVARD, NORTH OF RUTHERFORD ROAD WARD 1

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Deputy City Manager of Public Works and the Director of Transportation Services, Parks and Forestry Operations, dated November 7, 2017:

Recommendation

The Deputy City Manager of Public Works and the Director of Transportation Services, Parks and Forestry Operations recommend:

1. That Council approve the implementation of a U-turn prohibition on Sweetriver Boulevard, north of Rutherford Road to Komura Road/Carrillo Street; and
2. That a By-law be enacted to amend By-law 284-94, the Consolidated Traffic By-law, to add a U-turn prohibition, on Sweetriver Boulevard, north of Rutherford Road to Komura Road/Carrillo Street.

Contribution to Sustainability

This report contributes to the goals and objectives within Green Directions Vaughan, the City's Community Sustainability and Environmental Master Plan, specifically:

Goal 3: To ensure that Vaughan is a city that is easy to get around with a low environmental impact.

Objective 3.2: To develop and sustain a network of roads that supports efficient and accessible public and private transit.

Economic Impact

The cost associated with the installation of the U-turn prohibition signage is estimated to be \$530.00 and will be included in the approved 2017 Operating Budget. The on-going cost to maintain the signs will be incorporated into future year Operating Budgets.

Communications Plan

Staff will notify York Region and York Regional Police and request enforcement of this prohibition.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the traffic review findings of the feasibility of implementing a U-Turn prohibition on Sweetriver Boulevard north of Rutherford Road.

Background - Analysis and Options

Sweetriver Boulevard is a two lane minor collector roadway with a 26.0 to 37.5 metre right-of-way (with centre medians south of Komura Road/Carrillo Street), which includes sidewalks on both sides. The road is divided just north of Rutherford Road. Sweetriver Boulevard south of Rutherford Road is a private road, which is part of the Vaughan Mills Mall road network. The intersection of Sweetriver Boulevard and Rutherford Road is under the Region of York jurisdiction. The area is shown in Attachment No.1.

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Heavy demand for northbound left turns at the intersection of Sweetriver Boulevard and Rutherford Road results in U-turn traffic movements.

Due to heavy demand for northbound left turn movements at the intersection of Sweetriver Boulevard and Rutherford Road, motorists intending to turn left at the intersection are driving north on Sweetriver Boulevard through the intersection, creating undesirable northbound to southbound U-turn traffic movements.

The intersection of Sweetriver Boulevard and Rutherford Road is controlled by traffic signals. The Region of York investigated signal timing at this intersection in July 2017 and found that the existing signal timing plan is optimized. Any further signal timing modification would adversely impact the Rutherford Road operation. The northbound left turn is operating at Level of Service (LOS) F, with the overall cycle length at 150 seconds.

U-turn traffic movements create operational concerns.

City staff conducted traffic studies on May 18th and 19th from 7:00 am to 9:00 am and from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The number of U-turn movements observed is shown in the table below:

DATE	TIME	# OF U-TURNS
May 18, 2016	7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. (2 hours)	0
	3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (3 hours)	41
May 19, 2016	7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. (2 hours)	2
	3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (3 hours)	41

The review showed the majority of U-turn movement activity occurred during the afternoon peak traffic hours on Sweetriver Boulevard between Rutherford Road and Komura Road/Carrillo Street. The review also showed U-turn movements occurred in the morning peak period. The 41 U-turns during the three hour afternoon peak period represent 2% of the total northbound left-turn volume of 2,074.

Based on staff observations, a northbound dual left turn lane exists at the intersection of Sweetriver Boulevard and Rutherford Road. The northbound left turn queues can be cleared within two (2) cycles of the traffic signal. A maximum of five (5) U-turns have been observed in one-cycle. The southbound traffic queues past the full moves accesses (allowances for unrestricted turn movements) on Sweetriver Boulevard north of the Rutherford intersection. The U-turn traffic conflicts with the southbound traffic and the outbound traffic from the plazas.

The U-turn traffic movement increases the number of conflicting traffic movements and increases the accident potential. South of Rutherford Road, vehicles in the northbound left turn lane merge into the northbound through lane at the Rutherford Road and Sweetriver Boulevard intersection. North of Rutherford Road, the northbound to southbound U-turn traffic conflicts with the southbound traffic on Sweetriver Boulevard and with the outbound trips from the full moves access to the commercial properties. These negatively impact the road operations in this area.

Future Road Network Plan includes Bass Pro Mills Road extension to provide alternative routes.

According to the Official Plan, Bass Pro Mills Road will be extended west to Westen Road and east to Jane Street to provide alternative routes for east-west traffic. This will provide additional road network capacity and help manage congestion in the Vaughan Mills area. The Bass Pro Mills Road extension to Jane Street is programmed in the 2018 capital budget.

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Other planned road improvements in the area include the Rutherford Road widening (east of Jane Street) from four (4) to six (6) lanes (including Transit HOV lanes) and future new roads connecting the Vaughan Mills ring road to Jane Street and Bass Pro Mills Road. The future planned road network in the area is shown in Attachment No. 2.

The City is undertaking a transportation master plan. Through the transportation master plan, the study will review transportation needs that include network analysis and the identification of potential transportation improvements. The recommended improvements will be brought forward for Council's consideration during future budget processes.

A U-turn prohibition is proposed on Sweetriver Boulevard north of Rutherford Road to Komura Road/Carrillo Street.

To facilitate the safer movement of traffic by minimizing the number of vehicle conflicts, a U-turn prohibition (Anytime) on Sweetriver Boulevard, north of Rutherford Road to Komura Road/Carrillo Street, is recommended. The proposed location will prohibit U-turns north of the existing centre median island where U-turn activity is currently taking place.

Relationship to Term of Council Service Excellence Strategy Map (2014-2018)

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to the Term of Council Service Excellence Strategy Map (2014 – 2018), this report is consistent with the following Term of Council Priorities:

- Improve municipal network; and
- Continue to ensure the safety and well-being of citizens.

Regional Implications

The intersection of Sweetriver Boulevard and Rutherford Road is under the Region of York's jurisdiction. The City and Region have worked together to gather information to make improvements to the operations and facilitate the safer movement of traffic.

Conclusion

It is recommended that a U-turn prohibition be added on Sweetriver Boulevard north of Rutherford Road to Komura Road/Carrillo Street to facilitate the safer movement of traffic.

Attachments

1. Location Map
2. Future Planned Road Network

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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.)