

CITY OF VAUGHAN

**EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 2012**

Item 11, Report No. 43, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on November 20, 2012.

11

**ALL-WAY STOP CONTROL REVIEW  
LA ROCCA AVENUE AND SILVESTRE DRIVE/ VESCOVO ROAD  
WARD 3**

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works, dated November 6, 2012:

**Recommendation**

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends:

- 1) That Council enact a By-law to install all-way stop controls at the intersection of La Rocca Avenue and Silvestre Drive/ Vescovo Road.

**Contribution to Sustainability**

Not Applicable.

**Economic Impact**

The capital costs associated with the installation of all-way stop controls is estimated to be \$500.00, and has been included in the approved 2012 Operating Budget. The on-going costs to maintain the signs and pavement markings (stop bars), is estimated to be \$150.00 per annum, and will be incorporated in future year Operating Budgets.

**Communications Plan**

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

**Purpose**

To review the feasibility of implementing all-way stop controls at the intersection of La Rocca Avenue and Silvestre Drive/ Vescovo Road as a result of operational issues caused by the installation of decorative crosswalks.

**Background - Analysis and Options**

***In September 2012, decorative crosswalks using pavement markings were inadvertently installed at the intersection of La Rocca Avenue and Silvestre Drive/ Vescovo Road***

Decorative crosswalks were recently installed at the intersection of La Rocca Avenue and Silvestre Drive/ Vescovo Road consisting of inlaid, white-coloured durable pavement markings. The markings at the uncontrolled legs of the intersection have resulted in conflicts amongst pedestrians and motorists as it resembles pedestrian crossing facilities (such as zebra markings) used at controlled intersections. This has caused confusion for both drivers and pedestrians within the community, which may result in safety concerns. Refer to Attachment No. 1.

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#### ***Decorative crosswalks have been installed at various locations throughout the City to promote streetscape appeal***

Decorative crosswalks have been installed City wide, primarily in new urban blocks, using a variety of materials. These features have been installed as part of the development process to articulate areas of pedestrian activity and to promote streetscape appeal. The majority of the decorative crosswalks have been constructed with grey impressed concrete.

Decorative crosswalks installed along all approaches at two-way stop control or tee intersections may cause conflict amongst pedestrians and motorists regarding the right-of-way. The extent of this conflict may vary depending on the type of material used for the crossing. For example, a decorative crosswalk constructed using grey impressed concrete or patterned asphalt closely resembles the colour of a municipal road and is not as highly visible to motorists. As a result, the level of conflict between pedestrians and motorists is minimal. Notwithstanding, staff are reviewing the installation of additional warning signage for both motorists and pedestrians at these locations.

#### ***Removal of the pavement markings will be problematic at the intersection of La Rocca Avenue and Silvestre Drive/ Vescovo Road***

One option to mitigate the operational concerns with the decorative crosswalks at the intersection of La Rocca Avenue and Silvestre Drive/ Vescovo Road could be to only remove the markings along La Rocca Avenue (the uncontrolled approach). In light of the 4-6 weeks since their installation, removing the pavement markings now will likely create further confusion for pedestrians and motorists.

An alternative option would be to implement all-way stop controls. Staff carried out a review of the traffic activity at the intersection of La Rocca Avenue and Silvestre Drive/ Vescovo Road.

#### ***Traffic operations at La Rocca Avenue and Silvestre Drive/ Vescovo Road Intersection are further evolving***

La Rocca Avenue is a major local (feeder) roadway with a 20.0 metre right-of-way, and a 9.0 metre pavement width. La Rocca Avenue extends from Via Campanile to the west, and Weston Road to the east; it is also one of the primary east-west roads within the local community. In addition, La Rocca Avenue has sidewalks along both sides of the roadway.

Silvestre Drive and Vescovo Road are local roadways with 17.5 metre right-of-ways, and 8.0 metre pavement widths. Sidewalks are located along the west sides of both roadways. The intersection of La Rocca Avenue and Silvestre Drive/ Vescovo Road is a four-leg intersection with existing stop controls on Silvestre Drive and Vescovo Road. Refer to Attachment No. 2.

The intersection of La Rocca Avenue and Silvestre Drive/ Vescovo Road is in proximity of public spaces including Via Campanile Park, St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Elementary School, La Rocca Square, and St. Claire of Assisi Parish.

It is also noted that St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Elementary School opened in September 2012 and has been designated as Vaughan's first 'Active Route Focused' school. This is an active community program for walking to school endorsed by the City that may result in increased pedestrian activity at the intersection of La Rocca Avenue and Silvestre Drive/Vescovo Road.

The Ontario Highway Traffic Act (2007), Part X Rules of the Road, Subsection 137, indicates that "in addition to stop signs required at intersections on through highways, the council of a municipality may

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by by-law provide for the erection of stop signs at intersections on highways under its jurisdiction”.

Staff completed a traffic study at the intersection of La Rocca Avenue and Silvestre Avenue/ Vescovo Road on October 3, 2012 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., and on October 4, 2012 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The data collected was compared to the Provincial Warrant for All-way Stop Control, and the warrant value was only 72% satisfied. The traffic and pedestrian volumes from the side streets (Silvestre Drive and Vescovo Road) were 80 vehicles and 6 pedestrians during the highest peak hour travel period. The warrant requires a minimum of 120 combined vehicle and pedestrian volume during the peak hour.

***All-way stop controls are recommended at the intersection of La Rocca Avenue and Silvestre Drive/Vescovo Road as the optimal solution to the current issues.***

In light of confusion that has been caused in the community by the pavement markings used for decorative crosswalks additional measures must be considered to improve traffic operations at this intersection. Staff believe that the removal of the pavement markings will further confuse pedestrians and motorists.

Traffic volumes and pedestrian activity are also expected to increase as development in the block and surrounding neighbourhood continues.

In view of the above, the safest option would be to consider installation of all-way stop controls at the intersection of La Rocca Avenue and Silvestre Drive/ Vescovo Road. A review of development procedures has also been carried out to ensure that these types of pavement markings are not installed at uncontrolled intersections in future.

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

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, the recommended all-way stop control will improve traffic flow for both drivers and pedestrians at the intersection, 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 all-way stop controls be installed at the intersection of La Rocca Avenue and Silvestre Drive/ Vescovo Road as an alternative to removing the decorative crosswalk installations.

#### **Attachments**

1. Examples of Decorative Crosswalk Installations at Intersections
2. Location Map – Intersection of La Rocca Avenue and Silvestre Drive/ Vescovo Road

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LL: mm

(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.)