COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - FEBRUARY 18, 2002

BARRHILL ROAD IMMEDIATELY NORTH OF RUTHERFORD ROAD PROPOSED NO U-TURN SIGN

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Development Services and Public Works recommends:

That a "No U-Turn" sign be installed at the north limit of the centre median on Barrhill Road immediately north of its intersection with Rutherford Road to prohibit U-turns for an 80 metre long section.

Purpose

This item is in response to a request for a "No U-Turn" sign on Barrhill Road immediately north of Rutherford Road to address safety concerns at that location.

Background - Analysis and Options

A nearby resident with a home fronting onto Barrhill Road has reported frequent u-turns near their residence. Staff conducted peak period observations and concluded that the u-turns are being made to avoid turning left at the nearby signalized intersection of Rutherford Road and Barrhill Road/Westburne Drive. Instead of making a westbound Rutherford Road to southbound Westburne Drive left turn, some motorists are making u-turns within the north leg of the intersection on Barrhill Road, immediately beyond the 30 metre long raised centre median island.

The u-turns, however, are unsafe as motorists stop at the end of the median and attempt to merge into already busy southbound Barrhill Road traffic flow. Staff observed 12 and 20 of these unsafe maneuvers occurring from about 7:30 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. and from about 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., respectively. Accordingly, staff recommend that a "No U-Turn" prohibition be created on Barrhill Road for a distance of 80 metres north from Rutherford Road.

In addition, staff contacted the Region of York to request that the signal timing be reviewed at the intersection of Rutherford Road and Barrhill Road/Westburne Drive to determine if extra time can be given to the westbound left turn movement onto Westburne Drive. This might reduce the potential for motorists to make unsafe u-turns on Barrhill Road.

Conclusion

It is recommended that a "No U-Turn" prohibition be created in response to concerns expressed about unsafe u-turn movements on Barrhill Road north of Rutherford Road.

Attachments

1. Location Map

Report prepared by

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FRANK MIELE Commissioner of Development Services and Public Works Bill Robinson, P. Eng. Executive Director of City Engineering and Public Works

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