

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - SEPTEMBER 19, 2005

REQUEST FOR INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC SIGNALS LANGSTAFF ROAD AND BALDING BOULEVARD

Recommendation

Regional and Local Councillor Joyce Frustaglio recommends:

1. THAT the Regional Municipality of York be requested to immediately undertake the installation of full traffic signals at the intersection of Langstaff Road and Balding Boulevard in the City of Vaughan at the cost of the City of Vaughan, and;
2. THAT a funding request in the amount of \$90,000 to top up available funding to the Region of York's estimated cost of \$125,000 be included in the City's 2006 Capital Budget for consideration.

Economic Impact

Funding in the amount of \$35,000 is available in the Engineering Services approved Capital Budget. Additional funding of \$90,000 would be required to fund the capital cost of the signal installation. Ongoing operations and maintenance costs would be the responsibility of the Region of York.

Purpose

To obtain the Regional Municipality of York's approval for the installation of traffic signals at the Langstaff/Balding Boulevard intersection.

Background - Analysis and Options

The Regional Municipality of York's reconstruction of Langstaff Road between Islington Avenue and Weston Road is nearing completion. When finished, this improved link in the Region's road network will be an attractive route for drivers wishing to access Highway 400 and will be a well-used connection within the Woodbridge community.

In addition, with the completion of construction, the City's sidewalk network will include new sidewalks between Islington Avenue and Weston Road where no connection existed previously. Due to the location of the National Golf Course and topography in this area between Balding Boulevard and Pine Valley Drive, there will be no sidewalk on the north side of Langstaff Road. As a result, pedestrians on the north side of Langstaff Road will be required to cross Langstaff to continue walking.

Although the Regional Municipality of York studies do not show that signalization of the Langstaff/Balding intersection is warranted, area residents are very concerned about the difficulty of accessing Langstaff Road from Balding Boulevard, particularly during peak hours. As well, the need to provide a safe crossing for pedestrians has been voiced.

The installation of full traffic signals at this intersection would ensure safer vehicular access to Langstaff Road and would provide a safe location for pedestrians to cross Langstaff. Installation of a Vehicle detector loop on Balding Boulevard would allow for a constant green signal for Langstaff Road traffic and would only trigger a red signal on Langstaff when a vehicle on Balding was waiting for access to Langstaff.

Since the Region's studies do not support the installation at the Region's cost, it is proposed that the signal installation be completed by the Region of York and be paid for by the City of Vaughan.

The City of Vaughan currently has funding in the amount of \$35,000 set aside for the installation of a pedestrian signal at the intersection. Based on recent similar installations, the Region has advised that full signalization would cost approximately \$125,000. Additional funding in the amount of \$90,000 would be required for the work. This amount should be included for consideration in the City's 2006 Capital Budget.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

The proposed installation of traffic signals at the intersection of Langstaff Road and Balding Boulevard is consistent with Vaughan Vision 2007, particularly A-2 Promote Community Safety, Health & Wellness.

Conclusion

Funds are available for the installation of a pedestrian signal at this location, however additional funding in the amount of \$90,000 is required for full signals. Although not technically warranted at this time, signalization of the intersection will provide safe, convenient access to Langstaff for residents and a safe crossing location for pedestrians.

Attachments

None.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Frustaglio
Local and Regional Councillor
City of Vaughan