

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - JUNE 18, 2007

MARTIN GROVE ROAD & BELLONA STREET PEDESTRIAN SIGNAL REVIEW

Recommendation

The Commission of Engineering & Public Works recommends:

1. That the Pedestrian Signal at Martin Grove Road & Bellona Street Intersection be relocated to the Intersection of Martin Grove Road & Jackman Crescent (South leg);
2. That the estimated \$20,000 relocation cost be funded out of the Traffic Signal program as proposed in the 2007 Capital Budget; and
3. That Engineering Services staff contact those directly affected residents to ensure their support of the Pedestrian Signal new location.

Economic Impact

There is no additional economic impact to the Capital Budget. There are sufficient funds in the 2007 Traffic Signal Program for this relocation.

Communications Plan

There has been on-going discussions and correspondence related to the location of the subject Pedestrian Signal from many varied sources in the affected Community. Staff were directed to hold a Public Meeting to discuss the installation location with area residents. Upon Council's decision in the matter, the West Woodbridge Homeowners Association will be advised of the outcome. Further, local affected residents will be informed of construction activities by means of the Engineering Services standard "C" letter to be circulated in advance of the work commencing.

Purpose

To advise Council of the outcome of the Community Meeting and that the pedestrian signal at its present location will be relocated to the Martin Grove Road and Jackman Crescent (south leg) intersection.

Background - Analysis and Options

The Engineering Services Department has received comments that the Pedestrian Signal on Martin Grove Road at Bellona Street, constructed in Summer, 2006, has not been installed in the correct location. (See Attachment 1 for Location Map). Prior to this Report, staff had previously reported in September, 2006. (Item 59, Report 43, Committee of the Whole, September 18, 2006) on the implications and costs of relocating the Pedestrian Signal.

At its meeting of February 26, 2007 Council directed:

"That this matter be referred to staff to schedule and attend a community meeting at Father Ermanno Bulfon Community Centre as soon as possible to discuss the matter and report back to a future Committee of the Whole meeting."

A meeting was convened in the evening of May 22, 2007, at St. Clements Catholic Elementary School. There were eleven attendees present including seven residents, (one resident that lives out side the circulated Notice area), two Councillors and one staff representative. Background

information to the undertaking was provided from staff and residents were then invited to ask questions and comment on the Pedestrian Signal installation.

While much of the discussion was focused on the history of the project, there was a clear desire on the residents' part, to have the signal relocated (See Attachment No.3). More specifically, there was consensus that a crossing at the south leg of Jackman Crescent and Martin Grove Road intersection in the vicinity of the walkway to Father Ermanno Bulfon Community Centre was the most appropriate location. The residents felt this location provided the safest and most visible crossing to the facility of interest for the seniors' patron group in particular. Traffic Engineering staff recommend that those directly affected residents two on the west side of Martin Grove Road south of Jackman Crescent, one at the north west corner of Martin Grove Road and Jackman Crescent and one on the east side of Martin Grove Road, north of the new proposed location be contacted to solicit their input of the Pedestrian Signal new location.

Staff have previously estimated that to relocate the current installation to Jackman Crescent there is an associated cost estimated at \$20,000. It would be the intent, upon Council approval, to revise the design(s) and secure the necessary approvals, tender the work with the 2007 Traffic Signal Projects, and undertake the Pedestrian Signal relocation by 2007 year end.

A secondary issue raised at the meeting concerns the existing lighting levels at the Martin Grove Road/Bellona Street on an intersection. Engineering Services staff will review the conditions and take appropriate action, as applicable.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report recommends a change from the priorities previously set by Council.

Regional Implications

Not applicable.

Conclusion

Based on the results of the Public Meeting, it is appropriate to relocate the subject Pedestrian Signal from the current location at Martin Grove Road and Bellona Street intersection to the south leg of Martin Grove Road and Jackman Crescent intersection. It is also recommended that the associated costs be funded out of the 2007 Traffic Signal program.

Attachments

1. Location Map
2. Item 59, Report 43, Committee of the Whole, September 18, 2006
3. Letter from St. Peter's Catholic Church

Report prepared by:

Gary P. Carroll, P.Eng., Director of Engineering Services, ext 3101
Mike Dokman, Supervisor Traffic Engineering, ext 3118

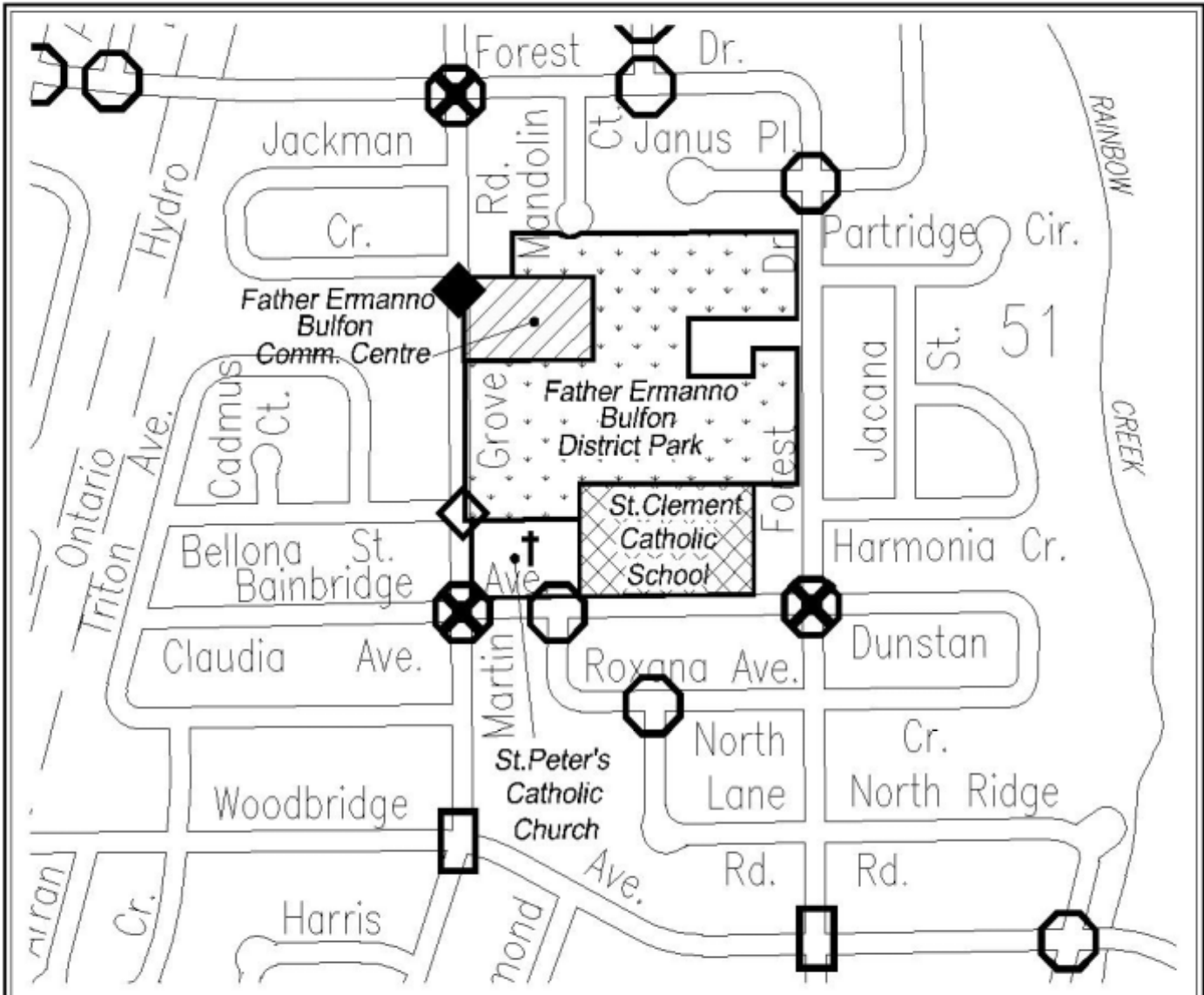
Respectfully submitted,

Bill Robinson, P. Eng.
Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works

Gary P. Carroll, P. Eng.
Director of Engineering Services






GPC:mc

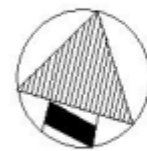
ATTACHMENT No. 1



MARTIN GROVE ROAD PEDESTRIAN SIGNAL

LEGEND

-  PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN SIGNAL LOCATION
-  EXISTING PEDESTRIAN SIGNAL
-  EXISTING TRAFFIC SIGNALS
-  EXISTING ALL-WAY STOP CONTROL
-  EXISTING SUPERVISED SCHOOL CROSSING



NOT TO SCALE

ATTACHMENT NO. 2

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2006

Item 59, Report No. 43, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on September 25, 2006.

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MARTIN GROVE ROAD – PEDESTRIAN SIGNAL LOCATION

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works, dated September 18, 2006:

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends:

That this report be received for information purposes.

Economic Impact

The cost to install the pedestrian signal as proposed will have no additional impact on the approved 2006 Capital and Operating Budgets. Any additional costs to relocate the signal would be extra to the 2006 Capital Budget.

Purpose

To review the feasibility of relocating the pedestrian signal from its current placement on the north side of the Martin Grove Road and Bellona Street intersection to the south side of the Martin Grove Road and Jackman Crescent (south) intersection.

Background - Analysis and Options

The Engineering Services Department has received comments that the pedestrian signal on Martin Grove Road has not been installed in the correct location. The location was proposed near Jackman Crescent (south intersection) in the 2005 Capital Budget process.

At its meeting of September 13, 2004 Council directed:

“Staff to investigate the need for and feasibility and costs of installing a stop sign control and pedestrian crossing on Martin Grove Road, between Bellona Street and Jackman Crescent, at the exit/entrance of Father Ermanno Bulfon Community Centre parking lot.”

Please refer to Attachment No. 2 for the September 13, 2004 Council Extract.

Further, at its meeting of January 24, 2005 Council approved:

- “1. That an all-way stop control not be installed on Martin Grove Road at the Father Ermanno Bulfon Community Centre access; and**
- 2. That this report regarding the installation of a pedestrian signal on Martin Grove Road be received and that funding for the project be considered as a part of the 2005 Capital Budget deliberations should Council wish to approve the installation of a pedestrian signal.”**

Please refer to Attachment No. 3. for the January 24, 2005 Council Extract.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2006

Item 59, CW Report No. 43 – Page 2

Martin Grove Road is a four-lane collector. Father Ermanno Bulfon Park and Community Centre, a Church and St. Clement Catholic School are located east of Martin Grove Road. The pedestrian signal is currently being installed on the north side of the Martin Grove Road and Bellona Street intersection. Please refer to Attachment No. 1 for the area network.

In early August 2006, a concern was brought to the Engineering Services Department's attention that the current placement of the pedestrian signal did not match to the location indicated in the 2005 Capital Budget process. During the design process staff considered the location of the power source, any existing features/amenities and other factors including the existing walkway to the park located just north of Bellona Street. The proposed location for the pedestrian signal could also be utilized during evening hours and weekends for the Church and the elementary school as well as the Father Ermanno Bulfon Community Centre. Construction proceeded on this basis in Summer 2006 at the current location north of Bellona Street.

In order to confirm the current location, staff conducted a pedestrian study on Tuesday, September 12, 2006 during the time periods of 7:30 to 9:00 am, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm and 3:30 to 5:00 pm. This study would provide an indication of where pedestrians were crossing Martin Grove Road between Jackman Crescent and Bellona Street. The section between Jackman Crescent and Bellona Street was split in middle, section 1 was between Bellona Street and the Community Centre access and section 2 was from the Community Centre access to Jackman Crescent. The results of the study are provided in the chart below.

Crossing Area	Time Period	Number of Pedestrians
Section 1	7:30 to 9:00 am	1 adult, 4 children
	11:30 am to 1:00 pm	6 adults
	3:30 to 5:00 pm	6 adults, 4 children
Section 2	7:30 to 9:00 am	3 adults, 1 child
	11:30 am to 1:00 pm	0 adults, 0 children
	3:30 to 5:00 pm	0 adults, 2 children

Based on the study, there were a total of 21 pedestrians crossing between Bellona Street and the Community Centre access and a total of 6 pedestrians crossing between the Community Centre access to Jackman Crescent. Conclusions indicate a higher pedestrian utilization in the southern section of the study area.

In order for the pedestrian signal to be relocated the following work is required:

- Removal of the existing works completed at Bellona Street.
- Preparation of the new contract design drawing for the relocation to Jackman Crescent.
- Underground works (conduit, wiring, restoration, additional handwells for wiring connections from the power source) from the power service location (same location as per Powerstream Inc.).
- Underground works (conduit, handwells, pole bases, wiring, restoration) at the south side of Jackman Crescent.
- Installation of all above ground equipment.
- Testing and inspection of the electrical equipment.

The contractor has estimated the cost for the removal of equipment from its current location to be \$16,000.

To date, the cost for the work that has been completed is \$28,000 and \$8,000 for the purchase of the traffic signal controller/cabinet. The total budget for this project is \$52,000.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2006

Item 59, CW Report No. 43 – Page 3

The estimated cost to relocate the pedestrian signal to the Martin Grove Road and Jackman Crescent intersection is \$20,000. The total cost for the project including removal and relocation would then be approximately \$72,000 which exceeds the approved budget by \$20,000.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This traffic study is consistent with Vaughan Vision 2007 as to identify and implement innovative traffic management alternatives to improve general traffic safety (1.1.3).

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

Conclusion

Based on the pedestrian study referenced above, it appears that the current signal location is appropriate. Relocation of the pedestrian signal, would require an increase of \$20,000 in the 2006 Approved Capital Budget.

Attachments

1. Location Map
2. Council Extract – September 13, 2004
3. Council Extract – January 24, 2005

Report prepared by:

Mike Dokman, Supervisor Traffic Engineering, ext. 8031

(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.)

ATTACHMENT NO. 3

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for this opportunity to discuss with you the proposed establishment of a pedestrian crossing at the corner of Bellona Street and Martin Grove Road. We apologize for not being able to attend this important meeting tonight as we are presently celebrating the sacrament of confirmation at our parish church this evening. Please accept our apologies for our absence but, as you can understand, our young parishioners must take precedence.

Please let it be known that although we agree that the "intention" of erecting a pedestrian crossing on Martin Grove Road is an honourable one, we must strenuously and wholeheartedly "object" to actually establishing a pedestrian crossing at that location for two reasons.

Firstly, for many years now, our parish church has been dealing with a "parking problem". When the church was originally built over 20 years ago, the allotted parking area was very limited and did not take into account the tremendous growth this area would undergo. Over the past three years, our parishioners have been battling with the local "parking enforcement agents" on Sundays who frequently ticket and fine any vehicle that is not properly parked according to local ordinances (what a surprise many have found that after praying for an hour in church on Sunday, those prayers cost them financially). It was not until last year that "NO PARKING" signs for installed along Bainbridge Avenue to indicate *exactly* where the "NO PARKING" areas began and ended. This left the parishioners who drive to church with even less space to park then before. Since the parking along Bainbridge Avenue is now limited, the only street parking remaining that is even remotely close to the church is on Martin Grove Road. If the proposed pedestrian crossing is implemented, that will effectively eliminate all street parking from the corner of Bainbridge and Martin Grove Road to the entrance of the Father Bulfon community centre (there are also two fire hydrants along the western side of Martin Grove Road). This would be a tremendous burden on many of our parishioners who must drive to church and who already must fight to find a parking spot for Sunday mass.

And secondly, the proposed pedestrian crossing on Bellona Street is only approximately 50 metres from the four way stop at the intersection of Martin Grove Road and Bainbridge Avenue. It would appear to us that this intersection would be the most logical place to place a pedestrian crossing so that all people may benefit from it. The traffic coming both north and south on Martin Grove Road are already preparing to stop at this intersection, so it would seem that this would be the more appropriate and logical spot for a pedestrian crossing. Could you imagine the confusion driving north on Martin

Grove Road and stopping at Bainbridge Avenue for pedestrians to cross and then stopping AGAIN another 25 metres later to let another group of pedestrians cross the street. This is a dangerous situation for both the pedestrians and the drivers. Although we are not quite certain WHY this pedestrian crossing at this location was ever proposed in the first place, it would appear that the intersection of Martin Grove Road and Bainbridge Avenue would be the most logical and beneficial location to all to install a pedestrian crossing.

Although we are well aware that the equipment and service have already been installed for the pedestrian crossing and at quite an expense (!), we do not feel that a proposed pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Bellona Street and Martin Grove Road would serve any real purpose other than to inconvenience the "many" while benefiting only a "few". We are confident that a solution to this problem can be found that would be beneficial to all involved. Working together with all on this problem can only bring about an amiable solution for all.

Please consider our objections to this proposed pedestrian crossing very carefully. St. Peter's church has long been at the centre of faith in this community, serving both the local neighbourhood and the city at large. At a time when our local community struggles to define its identity and meet the needs of all people, it would seem almost fool-hearted to discourage people from practicing their faith one day a week instead of encouraging it.

MAY 22/87

SIGNED ON

BEHALF OF

FR. MIKE / FR. CLAUDIO

ST. PETER'S CHURCH



RON MORA