

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - NOVEMBER 19, 2007

AL PALLADINI COMMUNITY CENTRE, PIERRE BERTON LIBRARY, AND EMILY CARR SECONDARY SCHOOL TRAFFIC REVIEW

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends:

1. That traffic calming measures not be implemented as they are not warranted on the subject lands due to the low amount of infiltration traffic;
2. That the signal timing at the intersection of Rutherford Road and Islington Avenue continue to be monitored by the Region of York in light of recent signal timing changes; and
3. That staff continue to monitor the on-site traffic conditions and liaise with York Region District School Board and Vaughan Public Library staff as required.

Economic Impact

Not Applicable.

Communications Plan

Staff at the Vaughan Public Library and York Region District School Board be advised of the findings of these traffic studies and Council's decisions reflecting the same.

Purpose

To review signal timing and traffic infiltration concerns as directed by Council at their May 22, 2007 meeting.

Background - Analysis and Options

At its meeting on May 22, 2007 Council directed:

- “1. That the Region of York be requested to conduct a study of the operation of the intersection signalization at Rutherford Road and Islington Avenue to identify measures to eliminate traffic infiltration in the southeast quadrant of the intersection, namely through the parking lots of Al Palladini Community Centre, Pierre Berton Resource Library, and Emily Carr Secondary School;
2. That appropriate measures be implemented by the Region as soon as possible; and
3. That the City of Vaughan, Vaughan Public Library, York Region, and York Region District School Board staff identify additional traffic control measures that may alleviate the infiltration through these facilities.”

Rutherford Road and Islington Avenue are arterial roadways under jurisdiction of the Region of York. There is an existing traffic signal at this intersection. The subject lands in the southeast corner of this intersection contain three distinct buildings; the Al Palladini Community Centre, the Pierre Berton Resource Library, and Emily Carr Secondary School. There are three accesses into the site; an uncontrolled access on Islington Avenue, an uncontrolled access on Rutherford

Road, and a traffic signal controlled access on Rutherford Road. The area is shown on Attachment No. 1.

Staff conducted an infiltration study on Thursday, September 20, 2007 during the time periods of 7:00am to 9:00am and 4:00pm to 6:00pm to determine the amount of 'cut-through traffic' that was using the complex accesses as an alternative route to avoid the intersection of Rutherford Road and Islington Avenue. The weather was clear and sunny throughout the day.

The infiltration routes and results of the studies are summarized in the following table.

Thursday, May 3, 2007 Study				
TIME	ENTERING AT	EXITING AT	TOTAL INBOUND VEHICLE	TOTAL INFILTRATION
7:00 am to 9:00 am	Islington Avenue Access	Rutherford Road Accesses	77	6 vehicles or 8%
	Rutherford Road Accesses	Islington Avenue Access	332	15 vehicles or 5%
4:00 pm to 6:00 pm	Islington Avenue Access	Rutherford Road Accesses	54	6 vehicles or 11%
	Rutherford Road Accesses	Islington Avenue Access	84	2 vehicles or 2%

The actual number of vehicles cutting through the complex accesses is very low during the AM and PM peak periods. Typically, an infiltration threshold of 30% has been used to determine if a cut-through traffic problem exists. Based on the results of the study, the number of infiltrating vehicles is very low and does not warrant restrictive measures within the subject lands.

However, staff did review the subject lands to determine if any traffic calming measures such as speed humps could be installed to dissuade the cut-through traffic should Council approve of these measures. The subject lands are generally composed of open rows of parking stalls. Staff could not determine any effective locations for speed humps, as a driver can easily avoid the speed humps by driving around them through the adjacent parking stalls.

The Region of York was requested to investigate the traffic signal timings at the intersection of Rutherford Road and Islington Avenue to determine if the existing signal timings were adequate for facilitating traffic and pedestrians.

Staff contacted the Principal at Emily Carr Secondary School, as well as staff at Pierre Berton Resource Library, and Al Palladini Community Centre to receive comments as to existing conditions and suggestions for improvements.

Comments received from the representatives of the three buildings included:

- Speeding/loitering in the parking lot areas;
- High volume/congestion during the start and dismissal times at the secondary school;
- Difficulty in entering Islington Avenue via the unsignalized Islington Avenue access;
- Some concern for library patrons crossing the driveway in front of the library;
- Speed humps/bumps were mentioned as a possible improvement, however it was also acknowledged that vehicles could avoid the speed humps in parking areas;

On Wednesday September 26, 2007 and Thursday September 27, 2007, Region staff conducted reviews of the northbound right turn movement and the westbound left turn movement. The northbound right turn movement is a channelized approach which permits traffic to move freely. There was no observed queuing for this movement during observations.

However, additional green signal timing was given to the westbound left turn movement phase during the morning peak period to alleviate queuing observed with this movement. No adjustments were made to the afternoon peak period as the review showed queuing was not a concern during observations.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This traffic study is consistent with Vaughan Vision 2007 as to ensure enhanced safety standards are incorporated in community designs (1.1.2).

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

Regional Implications

The Region of York was requested to review the traffic signal timings at the intersection of Rutherford Road and Islington Avenue. As a result of the Region's review, additional green time was given to the morning peak period for the westbound left turn movement phase.

Conclusion

Based on staff's review, it is recommended that no further action is warranted based on the results of the traffic review.

Attachments

1. Location Map

Report prepared by:

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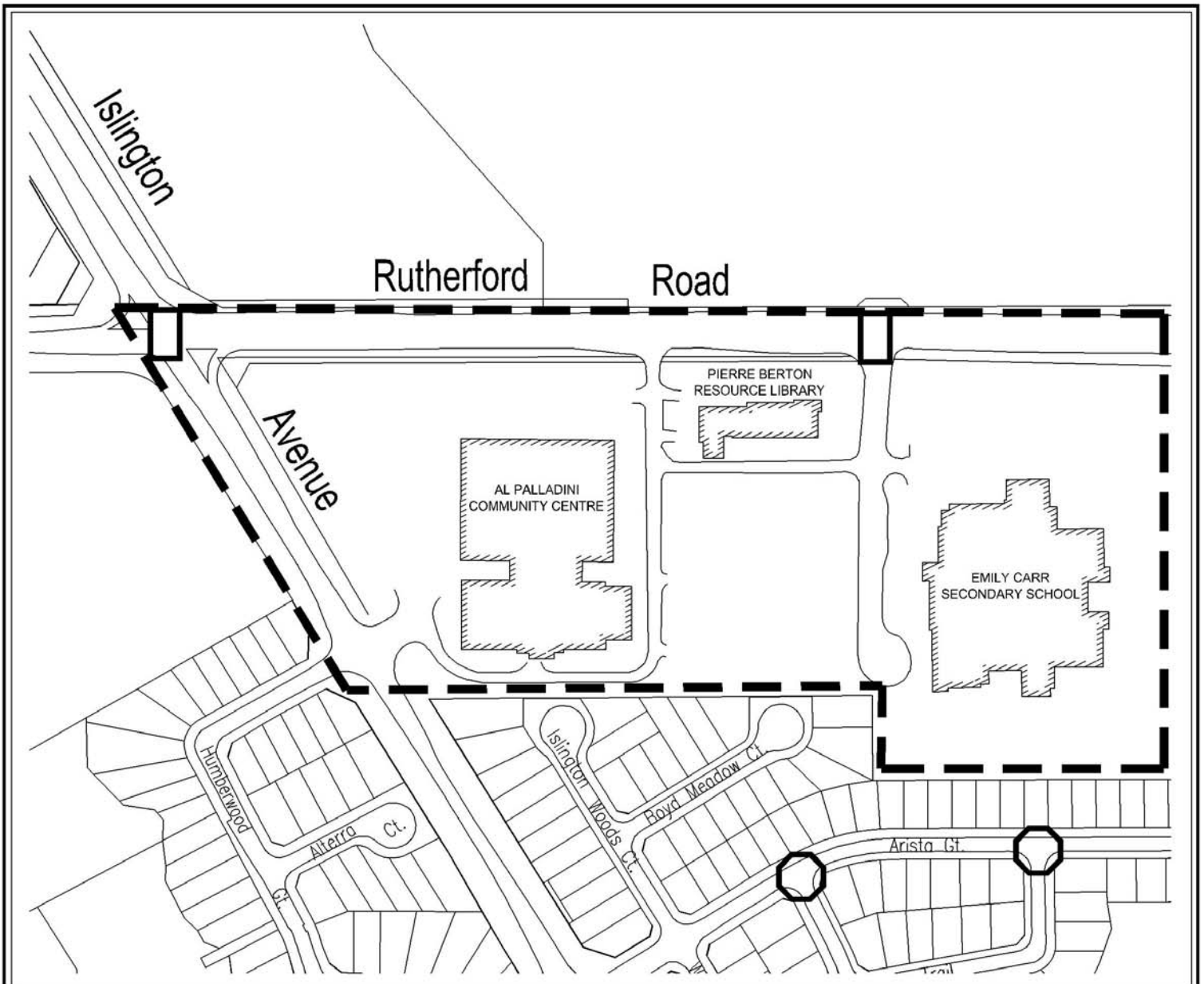
Respectfully submitted,

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

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




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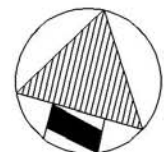
ATTACHMENT No. 1



AL PALLADINI COMMUNITY CENTRE, PIERRE BERTON RESOURCE LIBRARY & EMILY CARR SECONDARY SCHOOL TRAFFIC REVIEW

LEGEND

-  AREA UNDER REVIEW
-  EXISTING TRAFFIC SIGNALS
-  EXISTING ALL-WAY STOP CONTROL



NOT TO SCALE