

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - JUNE 18, 2007**

### **BATHURST AND CENTRE STREET – THORNHILL TOWN CENTRE**

#### **Recommendation**

Councillor Shefman recommends that:

Whereas the intersection of Bathurst and Centre Street is currently the responsibility of York Region, and

Whereas this intersection is increasingly stressed by the increased traffic flow in all directions; and,

Whereas the Thornhill Town Centre residential developments shortly going to be completed, increasing substantially the impact on this intersection; and,

Whereas a major commercial development, including a large Wal-Mart store will be completed and opened in the mid to late fall of 2007; and,

Whereas Centre Street from Bathurst east to Atkinson, is the responsibility of York Region; and,

Whereas Centre Street, as seen from the intersection appears to be a four lane arterial road from Bathurst to Yonge Street, but in fact is only four lanes to Atkinson and,

Whereas Centre Street from Atkinson, east to Yonge is a two lane local road feeding into residential areas and the Thornhill Historic District;

1. That the City of Vaughan immediately request York Region to conduct a detailed traffic study at the intersection with the purpose of directing inflow traffic away from the residential areas to the east of Bathurst, off of Centre Street;
2. That this study be completed by October of 2007;
3. That in the interim, until the traffic study is completed, that a dual left turn lane be implemented going east from Centre at Bathurst, in order to provide easier access for traffic to continue north to either the 407 or Highway 7;
4. That in the interim, until the traffic study is completed, that a temporary narrowing of Centre Street, from Bathurst to Atkinson be erected in order to dissuade drivers from using Centre Street as a route to travel from Bathurst to Yonge;
5. That appropriate signage – “local traffic only,” “no heavy trucks,” etc be posted to further dissuade non-local traffic from infiltrating the residential neighbourhood
6. That the interim measures be put in place prior to the opening of the commercial centre, scheduled for the fall of 2007.

#### **Purpose**

1. To address current and impending traffic infiltration problems in the residential areas east of the intersection of Bathurst and Centre Street
2. To protect the Thornhill District
3. To provide an improved traffic flow at the intersection of Bathurst and Centre Street

## **Background- Analysis and Options**

1. In 1977 The City of Vaughan designated the block to the northwest of the intersection of Bathurst and Centre as the Thornhill Town Centre. This block was zoned to allow high density and commercial development. The site plan defining the high density was approved in 2004
2. Currently, that development is well on its way to completion, with numerous high density residential buildings completed and being built and the commercial development scheduled to open in the fall of 2007.
3. At the same time, it would seem that little has been done to respond to the impact of the increasing traffic through the intersection of Bathurst and Centre.
4. This intersection is especially vulnerable as, east of Bathurst, it appears that Centre Street continues as a four lane arterial road, rather than diminishing to a two lane local road east of Atkinson.
5. Residents in the residential areas to the south and north of Centre are currently very concerned by the constantly increased traffic on Centre Street and traffic infiltrating through their neighbourhoods. They have complained especially of noise and pollution emanating from this traffic.

## **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007**

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

## **Economic Impact**

None

## **Regional Impact**

As these roads are under the jurisdiction of the Region these recommendation will need to be implemented at that level

## **Communications Plan**

This recommendation and the resultant action should be communicated to the residents of the area

## **Conclusion**

That the City of Vaughan bring this recommendation to the attention of the Region with some urgency to address these issues as soon as possible.

## **Attachments**

None.

## **Report prepared by:**

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Respectfully submitted,

Alan Shefman  
Councillor, Ward 5