

BUDGET COMMITTEE – DECEMBER 14, 2009

THORNHILL WOODS TRAFFIC CALMING PROJECT WARD 4

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends:

That this report be received.

Contribution to Sustainability

The implementation of either the curb extensions and/or the relocation of the pedestrian crossing areas will improve the overall traffic safety and operations.

Economic Impact

This report, as written, has no economic impact. However, should Budget Committee wish to proceed with this project in 2010, \$90,000 funded from taxation will be added to the proposed 2010 Capital Budget. The on-going costs to maintain the signs and pavement markings would be incorporated in future year Operating Budgets.

Communications Plan

The residents will be notified of Council's final decision on this matter. Engineering Services staff will contact the external consultant to discuss further detail strategies regarding the proposed improvements.

Purpose

To incorporate operational improvements on Summeridge Drive and Autumn Hill Boulevard based on the findings of the external consultant's recommendations to be incorporated in the 2010 Capital Budget.

Background - Analysis and Options

At its meeting on December 7, 2009, the Budget Committee requested;

“That Engineering staff review the Thornhill Woods Traffic Calming project and provide a report identifying those measures that need to be implemented in 2010.”

The traffic calming project was completed in early October 2009. City Staff received several resident complaints regarding the implementation of the traffic circles. There were two main concerns expressed by the residents:

1. Drivers are not familiar with navigating through a traffic circle;
2. The safety of pedestrians crossing at these intersections.

The following traffic circles were installed.

On Autumn Hill Boulevard	@ Seurat Place/Shemer Drive
	@ Chopin Boulevard
	@ Schuster Lane
	@ Piedmont Drive
	@ Knightshade Drive

On Summeridge Drive

@ Bathurst Glen Drive

@ Loire Valley Drive

The Engineering Services Department retained the services of Sernas Transtech to provide an operational review of the recently installed traffic calming measures on Autumn Hill Boulevard and Summeridge Drive, specifically the traffic circles. A meeting was held on November 9, 2009, with the Ward Councillor, Engineering Services staff and Sernas Transtech to discuss possible improvements for pedestrian safety and overall traffic operation.

Sernas Transtech submitted their report with possible proposals for improvements to the overall operation of the traffic circle and the safety of pedestrians crossing at the intersection.

Curb Extension Proposal

A curb extension has been proposed on the main streets approaching the traffic circles. The horizontal deflection will narrow the travel lane to assist with the vehicle speeds approaching the traffic circle. The estimated cost for all seven intersections is \$60,000.00.

Pedestrian Crossing Areas

The existing crossing areas have been proposed farther back from the intersection to be consistent with a traditional roundabout design. The original estimate for this work is approximately \$40,000.00. Based on staff's review, there is some flexibility to relocate the crossing areas closer to the intersection where the painted yield lines exist, which will provide additional protection to pedestrians. The revised estimated cost for the relocation of the crossing areas at all seven intersections is \$30,000.00.

The recommendations by Sernas Transtech do not address the issue with respect to drivers that do not yield the right-of-way at the traffic circles, as observed by staff and received through complaints by area residents.

The revised estimated value of these operational improvements is approximately \$90,000, funded from taxation. These works have not been included for consideration in the 2010 Capital Budget.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan 2020, the recommendations of this report will assist in:

- Pursue Excellence in Service Delivery;
- Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health and Wellness; and
- Lead and Promote to Environmental Sustainability.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council

Regional Implications

There are no Regional implications resulting from this report.

Conclusion

The revised estimated value of these operational improvements is approximately \$90,000, funded from taxation. These works have not been included for consideration in the 2010 Capital Budget.

Attachments

None.

Report prepared by:

Mike Dokman, Supervisor Traffic Engineering, ext. 3118
Jack Graziosi, Director of Engineering Services, ext 3101

Respectfully submitted,

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

Jack Graziosi, P. Eng., M. Eng.
Director of Engineering Services

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