

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – JUNE 23, 2009

KING HIGH DRIVE UPDATE CENTRE MEDIAN CONSTRUCTION WARD 4

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends:

1. That the Region of York be requested to construct the proposed centre median on Dufferin Street at King High Drive with an enhanced landscaping plan, similar to those on Dufferin Street south of Centre Street;
2. That the Parks and Forestry Operations Department provide service maintenance on the landscaped median until such as time the median is equipped and operational with an underground irrigation system; and
3. That the City fund 50 percent of the cost in the amount of \$95,000 for the construction of the proposed landscaped centre median once completed by the Region of York in accordance with the Region of York Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program. The project will be funded through the Municipal Roads and Infrastructure Grant from the Province of Ontario.
4. That the inclusion of the matter on a public Committee or Council agenda for the additional funding request identified as King High Drive – Centre Median Construction is deemed sufficient notice pursuant to Section 2 (1) (c) of By-law 394-2002.

Contribution to Sustainability

The construction of the proposed centre median on Dufferin Street and the modifications to the traffic signal operation at the intersection of Dufferin Street and Centre Street will improve the overall travel movements on the surrounding Regional and City roadways.

Economic Impact

There will be an impact to the 2009 Capital Budget of \$95,000 which is the 50 percent share by the City for the overall construction cost of the upgraded median. This represents a \$25,000 incremental increase over the estimated \$70,000 cost of the basic median which would have been paid entirely by the City of Vaughan. The source of funding for the work is the Municipal Roads and Infrastructure Grant from the Province of Ontario. The on-going costs for regular maintenance of the landscaped median will be incorporated in future Operating Budgets.

Communication Plan

Once the construction date has been confirmed, a notice of construction letter will be sent out to those affected residents within 100 metres of the intersection and the Ratepayers Association. City of Vaughan staff will maintain discussion and coordination throughout the construction of the project. Engineering Services staff will discuss the planned design of the centre median with Parks and Forestry Operations Department staff and Policy Planning/Urban Design staff.

Purpose

To provide an update and the status of the proposed centre median to be constructed on Dufferin Street at King High Drive.

Background - Analysis and Options

Dufferin Street is an arterial roadway and the intersection of King High Drive and Dufferin Street is under the jurisdiction of the Region of York. King High Drive is a local roadway under the jurisdiction of the City of Vaughan. The area road network is shown on Attachment No. 1.

At its meeting of May 22, 2007, Council approved a temporary closure of King High Drive near the east property limit of the commercial development for a trial period (one year). The closure was implemented in August 2007. Break-away bollards were installed across King High Drive east of Dufferin Street near the commercial development. Notices were mailed out to the residents of King High Drive and Belfield Court notifying them of the approved temporary closure. In November 2007, Council requested an interim report to the Committee of the Whole in six months on the impacts of the closure. The interim report was considered by Council at its meeting of May 26, 2008. Council directed that staff continue the review of the traffic impact and provide a final report to Committee of the Whole in October, 2008.

At its meeting of November 24, 2008, Council approved that the Region of York implement a right in/right out centre median on Dufferin Street at King High Drive and that the existing barriers on King High Drive be removed. The Region of York considered the recommendation from Vaughan Council regarding the implementation of the centre median. By letter dated December 24, 2008, Regional staff advised that the design of the median must be to Regional requirements and that all costs related to the design and construction of the centre median island will be the responsibility of the City of Vaughan. The original centre median design was to be constructed as a raised concrete platform and was expected to cost approximately \$70,000.

The Region of York is reconstructing and widening Dufferin Street south of Centre Street to include HOV lanes, bicycle lanes and landscaped centre medians. The Region has also advised that they will be resurfacing Dufferin Street north to the 407/ETR interchange and plan to include HOV and bicycle lanes along this road section. Discussions with the Region have provided the opportunity to enhance the median design similar to those south of Centre Street and the total cost will be split 50/50 based on their Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program should Council wish to construct a landscaped median at King High Drive.

Centre Median

Engineering Services staff have had meetings with Region of York staff on the timing, construction, maintenance and enhancement of the median to be constructed. The Region of York will construct the median with the landscaping design used for those medians located on Dufferin Street south of Centre Street. Engineering Services staff will submit a Municipal Streetscape Partnership Policy Application form to the Region of York for the enhancement of the centre median. The Region indicated that the estimated time of completion for the work is the end of August 2009. The Region will build the median with the provision of an underground irrigation system from a water service connection as determined by City staff. The Region advised that the landscaped medians in the section of Dufferin Street being widened south of Centre Street are being equipped with an irrigation system. The provision for a future irrigation system at Dufferin/King High will limit any delays with the construction of the median. City staff can complete the design and installation of an irrigation system at a later date.

The additional source of funding for this work would be taxation. The project will be included in the 2010 Capital Budget submission for consideration during the budget deliberations. Source of funding is Municipal Roads and Infrastructure Grant from the Province of Ontario.

Questionnaire – Proposed Median

Engineering Services staff met with Region of York staff in December 2008 with respect to the design of the centre median to be constructed on Dufferin Street at King High Drive. From that

meeting, the Region requested that City staff receive feedback from the affected property owners at the intersection, on the construction of the proposed centre median. Engineering Services staff sent out a letter and questionnaire on February 12, 2009 to the owners of the 3 properties on the east side of Dufferin Street at King High Drive and to the owners of the 2 parcels of vacant land on the west side of Dufferin Street south of the Patricia Kemp Community Centre. Engineering Services staff received 1 reply to the questionnaire from one of the property owners on the west side of Dufferin Street indicating they wanted full access at King High Drive. However, there is a signalized intersection at Beverly Glen Boulevard to the north which would be the appropriate location for any full access. City staff are dealing with this issue pursuant to Council's direction regarding the Patricia Kemp Community Centre. There are no submitted development applications with the City for the 2 parcels of vacant land on the west side of Dufferin Street.

Refer to Attachment No. 2 for the letter, questionnaire and proposed centre median.

Dufferin Street and Centre Street

Region of York staff have sent to the Ministry of Transportation revised traffic signal drawings regarding the implementation of the southbound protected/permissive operation at the intersection. Upon preparing this report, the Region of York has not received approval notification from the Ministry of Transportation. Engineering Services staff have been advised that once the approval has been received from the Ministry of Transportation, York Region staff will expedite the required modifications at the intersection.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health & Wellness – to advocate for, protect and enhance community safety, health and wellness through education, design and enforcement.

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

Regional Implications

The Region of York has been part of the process on the various alternatives which have been documented in this report and others. The various alternatives affect traffic movements at the intersection of King High Drive and Dufferin Street.

The Ministry of Transportation has advised that in order for the implementation of the southbound protected/permissive operation at the Dufferin/Centre Street intersection, improvements would be required and revised drawings have been submitted by the Region to reflect those changes for MTO approval.

Conclusion

Should Council concur with this proposed additional funding request, this action would be considered as an amendment to the 2009 Capital Budget. Pursuant to the Municipal Act Section 291 (1) before amending a budget, a municipality shall give notice of its intention to amend the budget at a Council Meeting. That the inclusion of the matter on a Public Committee or Council agenda with respect to the funding request for this capital project identified as King High Drive-Centre Median Construction is deemed to be sufficient notice pursuant to Section 2 (1) (c) of By-law 394-2002.

Engineering Services staff will continue to work with York Region staff on the design and construction of the proposed centre median on Dufferin Street at King High Drive this summer.

Attachments

1. Location Map
2. Letter, Questionnaire and Proposed Centre Median

Report prepared by:

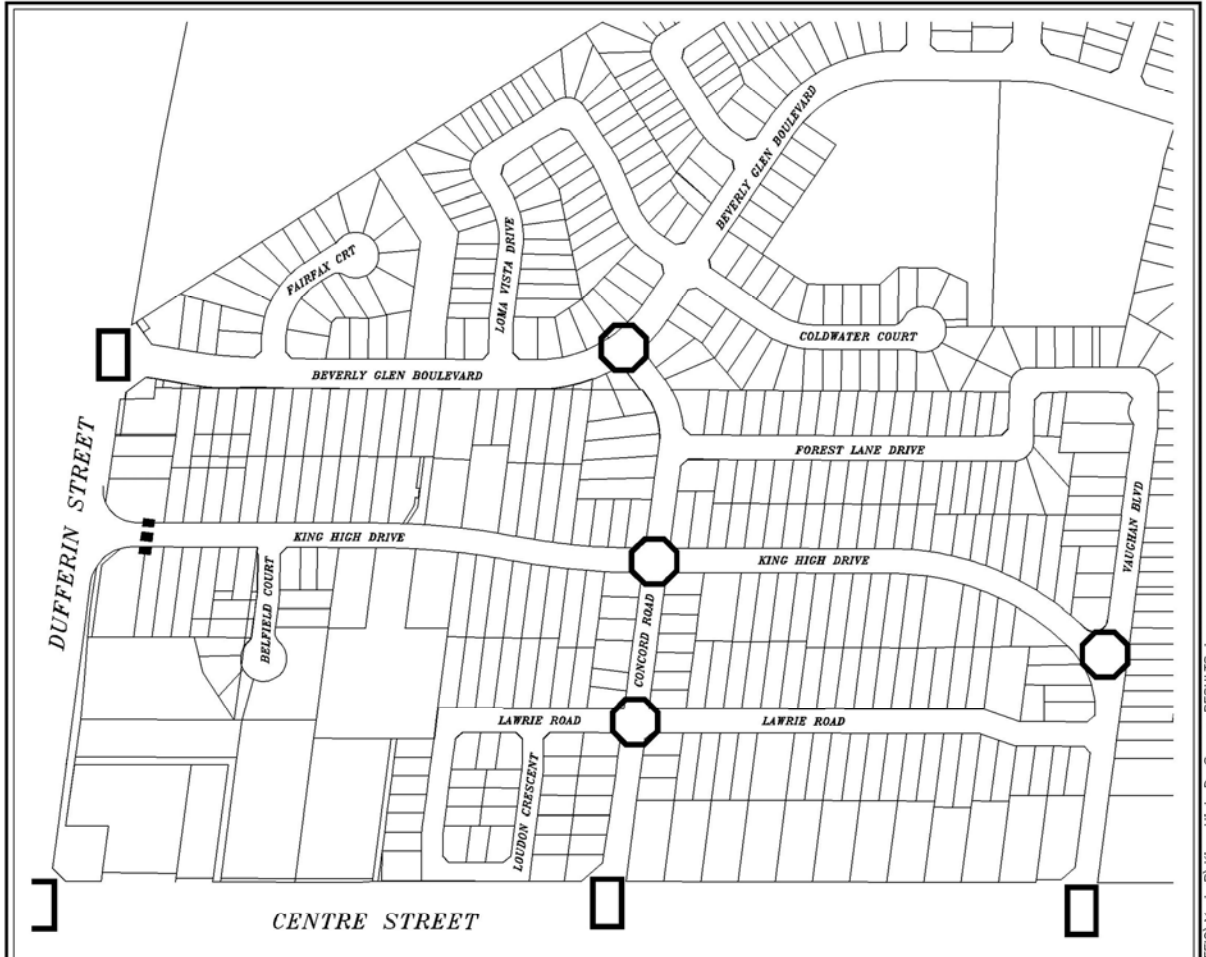
Mike Dokman, Supervisor, Traffic Engineering, ext. 3118

Respectfully submitted,

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




Jack Graziosi, P. Eng.
Director of Engineering Services

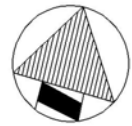
ATTACHMENT No. 1



KING HIGH DRIVE TEMPORARY CLOSURE LOCATION PLAN

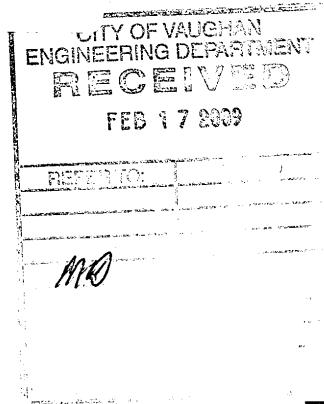
LEGEND

-  TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE
-  EXISTING TRAFFIC SIGNALS
-  EXISTING ALL-WAY STOP CONTROL



NOT TO SCALE

ATTACHMENT NO. 2



February 12, 2009

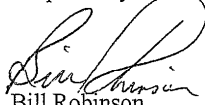
To: Ward 4 Sub Committee
Mayor Linda D. Jackson
Regional Councillor Joyce Frustaglio
Regional Councillor Mario Ferri
Regional Councillor Gino Rosati
Local Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco

Subject: King High Drive / Dufferin Street Proposed Median

Attached is a copy of the letter and questionnaire that we are sending out to the owners of the 3 affected developed properties on the east side of Dufferin Street at King High Drive and to the owners of the 2 parcels of vacant land on the west side of Dufferin Street. This material is being sent to the property owners as required by the Region of York in order to gauge support for the construction of the proposed centre median on Dufferin Street.

We will provide an update once the questionnaires are completed and returned.

Respectfully submitted


Bill Robinson,
Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works
(ext. 8247)

Encl.

cc: Michael DeAngelis, City Manager
Mike Dokman, Supervisor, Traffic Engineering

memorandum



The City of Vaughan
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan, Ontario
Canada L6A 1T1
Tel (905) 832-8585 ext 3118

February 11, 2009

KING HIGH DRIVE / DUFFERIN STREET **PROPOSED MEDIAN**

At its meeting of November 24, 2008, City of Vaughan Council considered a report regarding the review of the one year trial closure of King High Drive at Dufferin Street.

Council directed at their meeting:

"That the Region of York be requested to implement a right-in/right out centre median and southbound traffic prohibitions onto King High Drive and that the barriers at King High Drive be removed at that time only".

City staff contacted Region of York staff regarding the proposed centre median. The Region of York requested that a survey of the residents and businesses in the immediate area be conducted by the City of Vaughan to establish support for the construction of the median.

The attached air photo has been marked up to show a conceptual design of the centre median. The median would allow traffic from King High Drive to turn right (north) on Dufferin Street and northbound traffic on Dufferin Street to turn right (east) on King High Drive. It would prohibit southbound traffic on Dufferin Street from turning left (east) on King High Drive and similarly would prevent traffic exiting King High Drive from turning left (south) on Dufferin Street.

As per Council's direction, when the median is constructed, the closure on King High Drive will be removed to allow traffic along King High Drive between Dufferin Street and Concord Road.

We would appreciate your views on the proposed centre median and request that you complete the questionnaire below and return the completed form to us in the attached postage paid envelope to the City of Vaughan or by fax to (905) 303-2045 or by scanning and e-mailing the form to Mike Dokman at mike.dokman@vaughan.ca.

Please return the completed form by February 27, 2009.

KING HIGH DRIVE / DUFFERIN STREET
PROPOSED MEDIAN

- I am not opposed to the construction of the proposed centre median on Dufferin Street.
- I do not support the construction of the proposed centre median on Dufferin Street.

Comments:

Response from:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____

Please feel free to contact Mike Dokman, at (905) 832-8585 ext 3118, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mike Dokman, C.E.T.
Supervisor, Traffic Engineering

Encl. Air photo with conceptual median configuration

Copy: Mayor Linda D. Jackson
Regional Councillor, Joyce Frustaglio
Regional Councillor, Mario Ferri
Regional Councillor, Gino Rosati
Local Councillor, Sandra Yeung Racco
Bill Robinson, Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works



Needle
Required: 50m
beyond limit of
radius.