

DATE: September 29, 2011
TO: Mayor and Members of Council
RE: **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – OCTOBER 4, 2011**
STOPPING PROHIBITION REVIEW
EAGLE ROCK WAY
WARD 4

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends:

That By-law 1-96, the Consolidated Parking By-law, be amended to add “No Parking” Anytime prohibition and a “No Stopping” prohibition from 4:00pm to 7:00pm, Monday to Friday, on Eagle Rock Way, within the cul-de-sac and along the south side approaching the designated bus stop and beyond the designated bus stop to a point 85 metres east of the westerly end of the cul-de-sac.

Contribution to Sustainability

The installation of the “No Parking” and “No Stopping” prohibitions on either side of the existing designated bus stop on Eagle Rock Way will improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety in this area while ensuring appropriate levels of service are achieved by York Region Transit (YRT) and GO Transit. The installation of the “No Parking” and “No Stopping” prohibitions is consistent with Green Directions Vaughan Goal #3: “To ensure that Vaughan is a City that is easy to get around with a low environmental impact.” More particularly, this installation would advance Objective 3.2: “To develop and sustain a network of roads that supports efficient and accessible public and private transit.”

Economic Impact

Sufficient funding for installation of the “No Parking” Anytime prohibition and “No Stopping” prohibition from 4:00pm to 7:00pm, Monday to Friday, signs has been included in the 2011 Operating Budget. The on-going costs to maintain the signs would be incorporated in future years Operating Budgets.

Communication Plan

YRT has been notified that the report will be submitted for the Committee of the Whole Meeting, on October 4, 2011. Staff will contact both YRT and GO Transit and advise them on the outcome of Council’s decision on this matter.

Purpose

To respond to a request from YRT to assist in improving service for Vaughan residents using local and commuter transit services to access the GO Train station.

Background - Analysis and Options

Engineering Services staff received a request from York Region Transit regarding safety concerns within the cul-de-sac at the westerly terminus of Eagle Rock Way. The radius of the cul-de-sac on Eagle Rock Way is 17.0 metres. There exists a bus stop with a passenger interface to the adjacent GO Station along the southern curb of the cul-de-sac on Eagle Rock Way. Parking is currently prohibited within 6 metres of a point designated as a bus stop under By-law 1-96. YRT buses utilize the cul-de-sac to turn, and stop at the bus stop to pick-up and drop-off passengers. The largest bus servicing this location is 13.7 metres long, with a turning radius of 14 metres. It has been brought to the City's attention that bus drivers are experiencing difficulty maneuvering within the cul-de-sac when other vehicles are parked in this general area.

This issue identified by YRT highlighted a safety concern for bus users, vehicle drivers and GO Transit passengers, that resulted in the need to review the operational activities in and around Maple GO Station.

At the meeting held on September 13, 2011, the Committee of the Whole recommended that consideration of this matter be deferred to the allow staff to review the matter with GO Transit.

Staff have contacted both York Region Transit and GO Transit regarding the proposed prohibitions and how it would affect their customers and operations.

GO Transit

There are 10 trains that access the Maple GO station, 5 in the morning, and 5 in the afternoon/evening. GO Transit advised that they support the stopping and parking prohibition as it would improve their bus operation on Eagle Rock Way. The implementation of the prohibition on Eagle Rock Way would have no direct impact on operations at Maple GO station.

York Region Transit

Currently, there is one YRT route that services the Eagle Rock Way bus stop, and it has 22 trips a day, during weekdays. The frequency of these buses are: AM peak 30 minutes, midday 90 minutes and PM peak 30 minutes. YRT also supports the implementation of the stopping and parking prohibitions as it will improve their bus operation on Eagle Rock Way.

Maple GO Station Improvements

Recently the intersection of Major Mackenzie Drive and Hill Street has been signalized. This signalization will significantly improve access to Maple GO station for its patrons. The facility currently provides accommodation for 896 parking spaces as well as a Kiss & Ride passenger drop-off. In addition, GO Transit is carrying out expansion to provide additional parking to the north of the station, along with additional access to McNaughton Road. This project has a tentative completion date in early 2012.

Customer Impact

Staff have observed that drop-off activities on Eagle Rock Way, are very short in duration in the morning, whereas vehicles stopped to pick-up in the afternoon/evening are significantly longer. As a result, a "No Stopping" prohibition from 4:00pm to 7:00pm, Monday to Friday, is being recommended in addition to the "No Parking" anytime prohibition.

With the proposed restrictions in place, in order to continue pick-ups and drop-offs on Eagle Rock Way, drivers could continue to stop their vehicles east of the Eagle Rock Way cul-de-sac on the north side, or 30m east of the bus stop on the south side. Alternatively, drivers could continue to access the GO Transit facilities provided at the Maple GO station. The implementation of the prohibitions on Eagle Rock Way would result in walking distances increasing only by an estimated 50 to 60 metres, and the elimination of five on-street parking spots. Vehicles could continue to use the cul-de-sac for maneuvering.

It is anticipated that the impact to GO Transit customers will be minimal, however, staff will continue to monitor activity in the vicinity of the Maple GO station, and work with both GO Transit and YRT staff to discuss alternatives, as appropriate.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, the recommendations of this report will assist in meeting the City's objectives to:

- 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

The implementation of "No Parking" Anytime prohibition and the "No Stopping" prohibition from 4:00pm to 7:00pm, Monday to Friday on Eagle Rock Way within the cul-de-sac and on either side of the existing bus stop, will improve safety of all users, including that of the bus patrons and of the passengers being dropped off or picked up by private vehicles, in this area.

Conclusion

Based on Engineering Services staff's review, it is recommended that a "No Parking" Anytime prohibition and "No Stopping" prohibition from 4:00pm to 7:00pm, Monday to Friday, be implemented on Eagle Rock Way, within the cul-de-sac, and along the south side approaching the designated bus stop, and beyond the designated bus stop to a point 85 metres east of the westerly end of the cul-de-sac

Attachments

1. Location Map
2. Stopping/Parking Prohibition Detail

Report prepared by:

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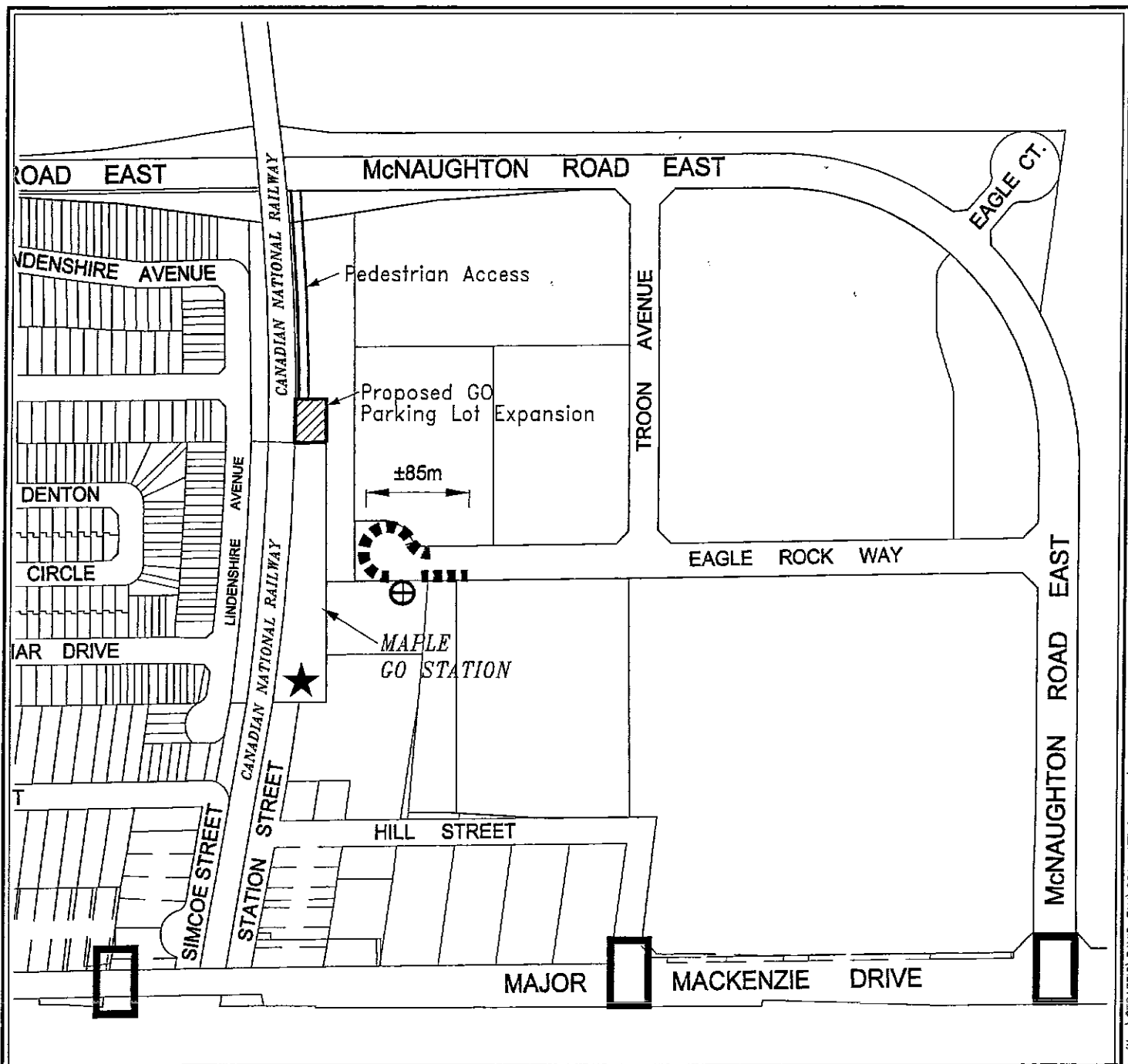
Respectfully submitted,

Paul Jankowski, P. Eng.
Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works

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





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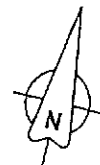
ATTACHMENT No. 1



STOPPING/PARKING PROHIBITION REVIEW EAGLE ROCK WAY

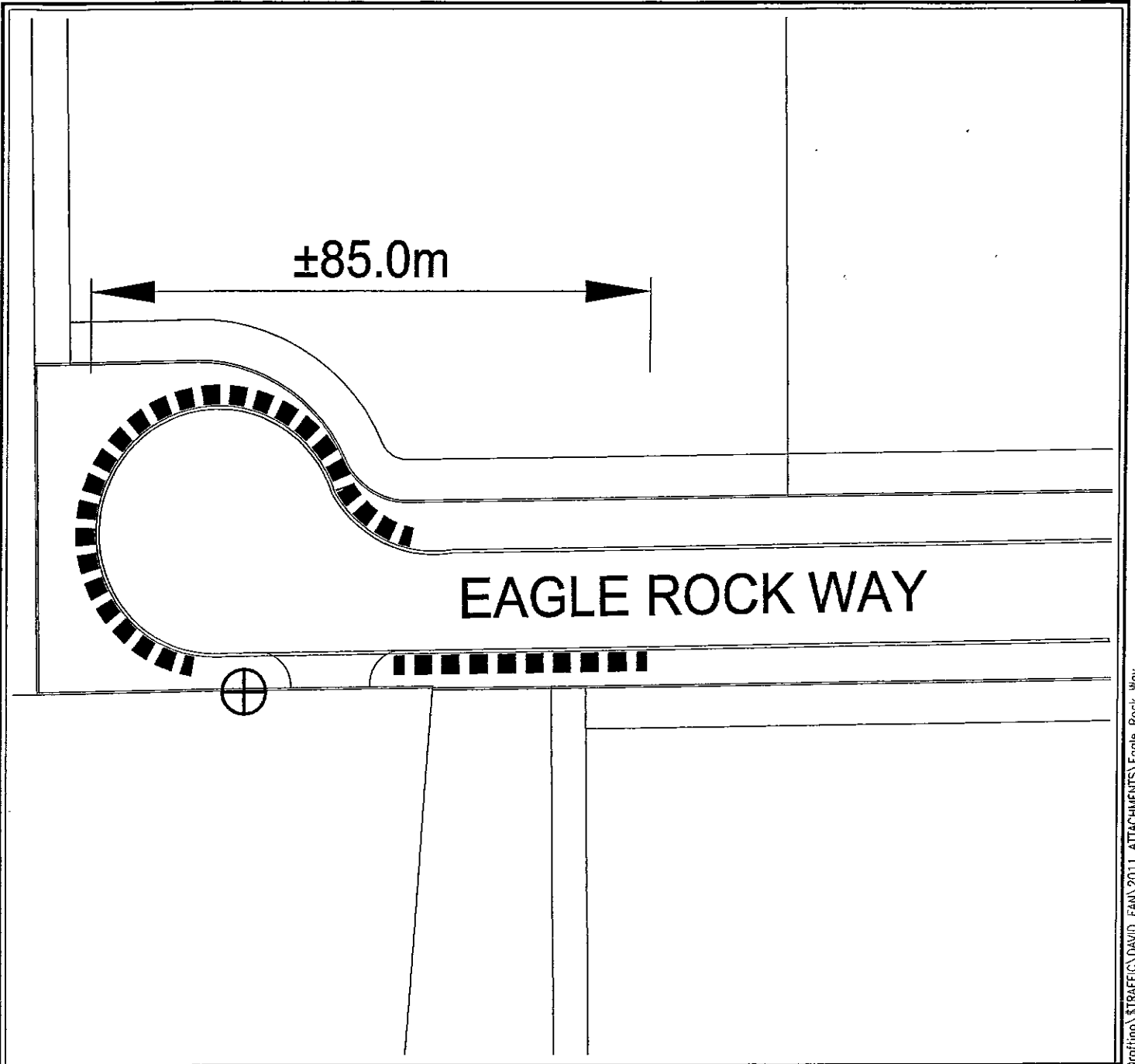
LEGEND

-  PROPOSED "NO STOPPING ANYTIME" PROHIBITION
-  EXISTING TRAFFIC SIGNAL
-  GO AND YRT BUS STOP
-  EXISTING PICK-UP/DROP-OFF LOCATION



NOT TO SCALE

ATTACHMENT No. 2



STOPPING/PARKING PROHIBITION DETAIL EAGLE ROCK WAY

LEGEND



PROPOSED "NO STOPPING ANYTIME" PROHIBITION



GO AND YRT BUS STOP



NOT TO SCALE