

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – FEBRUARY 16, 2004

ACCESS TO HIGHWAY 407 ETR FROM LANGSTAFF ROAD VIA HIGHWAY 400

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends:

1. That Council pass the following resolution regarding access to Highway 407 ETR from Langstaff Road via Highway 400 southbound:

“WHEREAS Highway 407 is a major transportation corridor extending through the City of Vaughan;

AND WHEREAS use of Highway 407 has diverted a significant amount of traffic, especially trucks, from Regional Road 7 and other regional and city roads within the City of Vaughan;

AND WHEREAS the existing Highway 400 southbound on ramp lanes from Langstaff Road do not allow access to Highway 407 ETR;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Vaughan requests that the Minister of Transportation and 407 ETR investigate the possibility of making the necessary changes to Highway 400 south of Langstaff Road, to allow access to Highway 407 ETR from Langstaff Road via Highway 400 southbound.”

2. That copies of this report be sent to the Minister of Transportation of Ontario, the 407 ETR and the MPP’s office representing the City of Vaughan in the Provincial Legislature.

Purpose

At its meeting of February 9, 2004 Council directed:

“That staff provide a report to the Committee of the Whole meeting of February 16, 2004, with a resolution to be sent to the 407 ETR and the Ministry of Transportation requesting access to 407 by way of Langstaff Road and 400 Hwy. south.”

Background – Analysis and Options

Vaughan residents together with business owners and operators have voiced concerns regarding the increasing number of motorists, especially trucks using the arterial road network within the City of Vaughan to avoid the escalating traffic congestion and gridlock.

A significant amount of truck traffic is generated from the existing employment areas bounded by Highway 400, the Canadian National Freight Classification Yard, Rutherford Road and Highway 7. Currently, local access to Highway 407 ETR for this traffic is limited to Highway 400 southbound via Rutherford Road, Highway 7 or Jane Street south directly to 407 ETR. The use of these routes causes additional unnecessary truck traffic congestion on the arterial road network within the area. The ability to access Highway 407 ETR from Langstaff Road via Highway 400 southbound would reduce unnecessary additional local congestion to the arterial road network and minimize elevated air and noise pollution levels within the immediate area.

Accordingly, it is recommended that Council pass the above noted resolution requesting the Minister of Transportation and 407 ETR to investigate the possibility of making the necessary

changes to Highway 400, for vehicular access to Highway 407 ETR from Langstaff Road via Highway 400 southbound.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to transportation and transit infrastructure as established by Vaughan Vision 2007, the recommendations of this report will assist in:

- implementing solutions to traffic gridlock;
- ensuring growth does not outpace the City's road network infrastructure;
- coordinating development with municipal facilities; and
- ensuring that municipal operations are undertaken in an environmentally responsible manner.

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

Conclusion

Allowing access to Highway 407 ETR from Langstaff Road via Highway 400 southbound would assist in reducing additional unnecessary traffic congestion on the arterial road network in the area, while minimizing potential elevated air and noise pollution levels.

Attachments

n/a

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Respectfully submitted,

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Commissioner of Engineering
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