

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – JUNE 21, 2004

NOAH CRESCENT WALKWAY

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works in consultation with the Commissioners of Community Services and Planning recommends:

That this report be received for information and that direction be provided to staff.

Purpose

This report represents an interim analysis and recommendations regarding the proposal to temporarily close off the Noah Crescent Walkway.

Background - Analysis and Options

At its meeting of April 26, 2004 Council adopted the following:

“That the Urban Design, Parks Development, and Engineering Departments be directed to work with Castlepoint Investments to consider a temporary or possible permanent closure of the Noah Crescent Walkway and that a report be brought forward to Committee of the Whole as soon as possible on the safety implications of this;

That staff be directed to attend a community meeting for the affected residents; and

That this be done at no expense to the City of Vaughan.”

The following information is provided in response to this request:

OPA 610 was approved by Council on February 23, 2004 and is with the Region for review and approval. The location of the Preferred Trail Route within the open space system is delineated in OPA 610 as indicated on Attachment No.1.

During the block plan stage, various locations of points of connection had been analyzed by both City and TRCA staff. The Noah Crescent Walkway was determined to be the most appropriate connection point at this location. Topographic restrictions preclude alternative locations for the open space connection. The walkway from Noah Crescent leads to the trail system in the area of Major Mackenzie Drive and Highway 27.

Staff is concerned that a temporary closure may lead to public pressure to close this walkway permanently. This will set a precedent for deletion of connections to a public trail system elsewhere.

Ingress and egress are to be provided to and from a public trail system because of safety considerations. Staff will want to contact the York Regional Police who will assess safety issues through the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) program.

This walkway is a necessary component to the City of Vaughan’s open space system. It is likely to be identified in the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan once that study is finalized.

Conclusion

This report is intended to provide the information requested by Council. Unfortunately, the community meeting has not been held and with the onset of the summer period a community meeting would not be held until September.

In the interim, proper walkway lighting as stipulated in the engineering drawings can be installed now such that the walkway is appropriately lit. At the end of the walkway where it connects to the open space, a general cleaning up and installation of temporary lights can prevent this area being used as a "hide-out".

If Council wishes to implement a temporary closure of the walkway to alleviate the present concerns of the residents prior to construction of the trail system, it should be made clear to the residents that the closure is only temporary. This could be achieved by having them all sign an acknowledgement document before temporarily closing the walkway. The City should retain the right to re-open this walkway at once upon the complete construction of this Preferred Trail. The cost of temporarily closing the walkway and its subsequent re-opening would be born by the developer.

Attachments

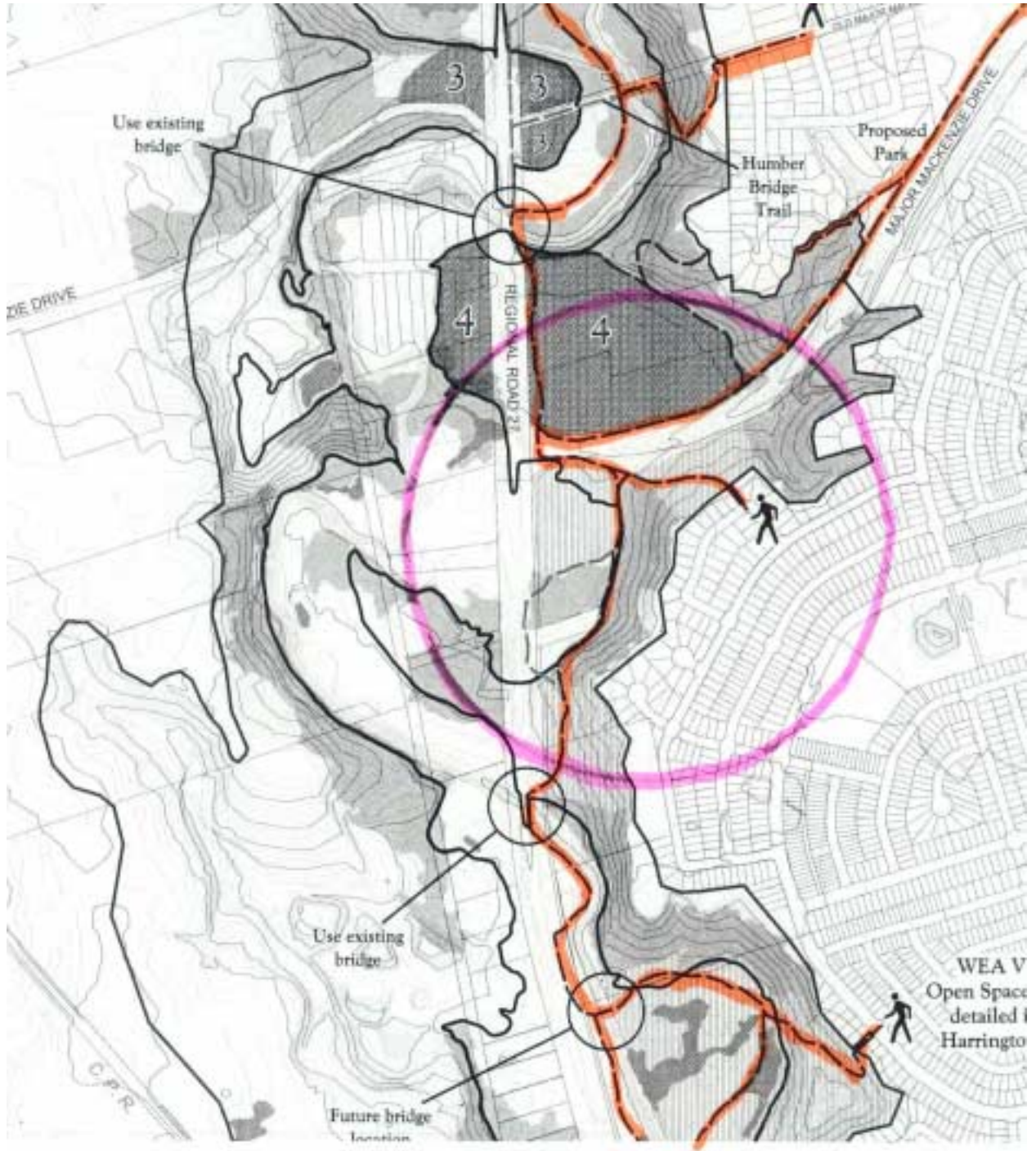
1. OPA 610 – showing the Preferred Trail Route;
2. Proposed Noah Crescent Walkway Temporary Closure.

Report prepared by

Anthony C.K. Ching, Development Engineer, ext 8711

Respectfully submitted,

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

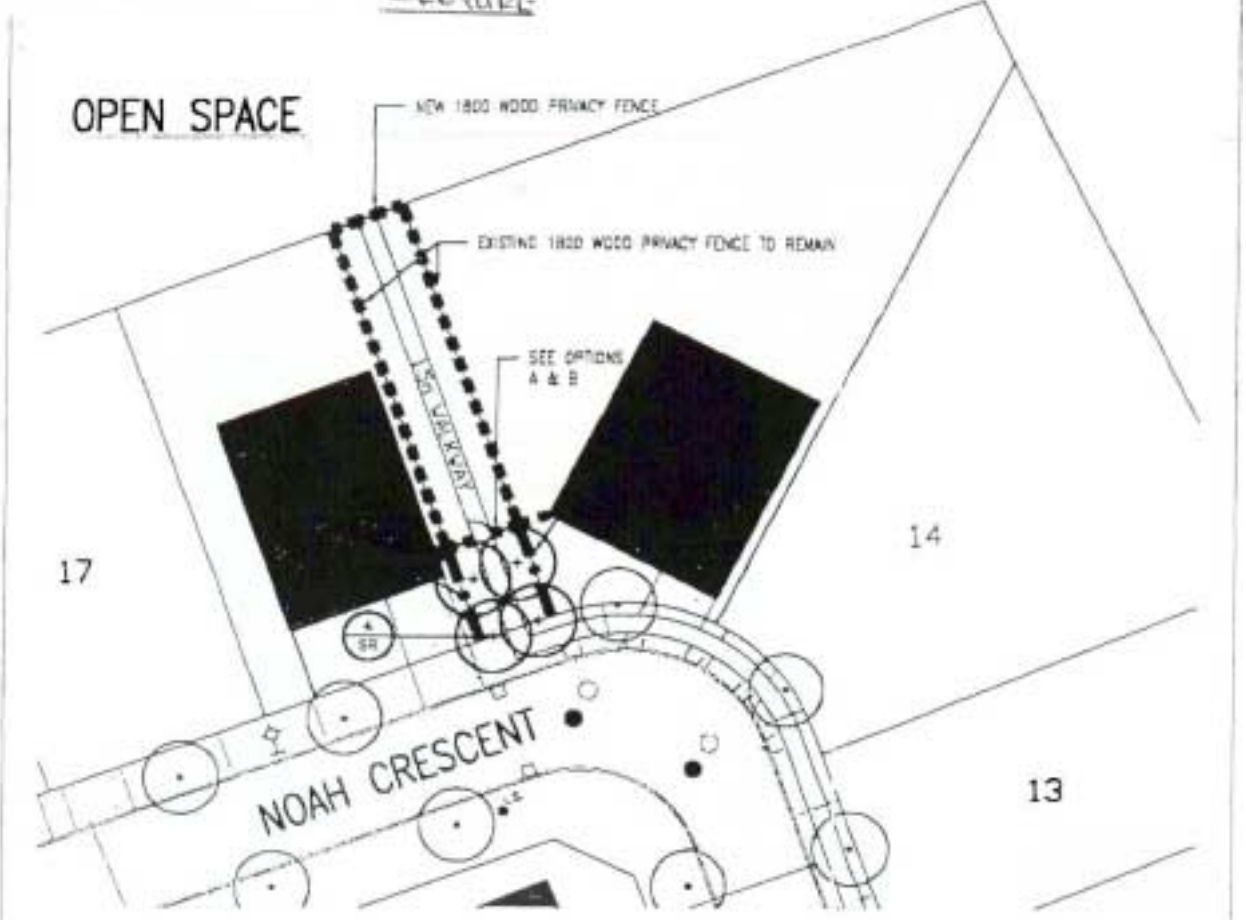


— Preferred Trail Route

ATTACHMENT NO. 1 OP&G10 - showing the Preferred Trail Route

ATTACHMENT NO. 2

- Proposed Noah Crescent Walkway Temporary Closure



OPTIONS

- A: 1800 WOOD PRIVACY FENCE WITH 1800 LOCKABLE BLACK VINYLE CHAIN LINK FENCE GATE
- B: 1800 WOOD PRIVACY FENCE WITH 1800 LOCKABLE WOOD GATE

NOTES

1. 4 - 50mm CAL. QUERCUS ROBUR 'FASTIGIATA', PYRAMIDAL ENGLISH OAK, TO BE PLANTED AT 5.0m O.C.
2. ALL NEW WOOD FENCE AND GATE CONSTRUCTION TO MATCH EXISTING WOOD FENCES AND GATES.

UNITED CASTLEPOINT SOUTH INC.
WOODBRIDGE EXPANSION AREA
ESM - 3470



**NOAH CRESCENT WALKWAY
TEMPORARY CLOSURE**

Paul Cusumano Associates Limited
Landscape Architects

DATE: 04.05.06 SCALE: 1:500

DRAWING NAME: Noah Crescent Walkway

815-d E00/E00 d 012-L

82959E2191P

1N10437115YD-R088 11191 9202-00-10