

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE NOVEMBER 15, 2004

TRAFFIC INFILTRATION FOR VELMAR DRIVE AND VILLAGE GREEN

Recommendation

Councillor Bernie Di Vona recommends:

1. That the City of Vaughan Engineering Department conduct a review of traffic infiltration onto Velmar Drive and Village Green along Rutherford Road and report on options and opportunities to implement traffic prohibitions or any other measures considered beneficial.
2. That the review be brought back to a further Committee of the Whole within the next month for consideration by the City of Vaughan Council.
3. That the request from residents on Velmar Drive be received.

Background - Analysis and Options

Several residents have expressed concern with traffic infiltration particularly during rush hour periods with traffic entering Velmar Drive and Village Green at Rutherford. They have expressed severe frustration, unsafe driving, and backup situations as some have accelerated and then slowed down at the speed hump and island and narrowing at Village Green and Velmar Drive.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

3.3.1 Implement effective traffic calming measures.

Conclusion

That the City of Vaughan receive the requests from the residents of Velmar Drive and refer it to the City of Vaughan Engineering Department for a traffic control study to analyze and solve the increased traffic problem on Velmar Drive north of Village Green to Rutherford Road.

Attachments

Letter- Dated September 27, 2004 from Mr. Giovanni Losiggio

Report prepared by:

Laura Borello-D'Avino, Council Administrative Assistant

Respectfully submitted,

Bernie Di Vona
Councillor Ward-3

Tuesday, September 27, 2004

Bill Robinson
Director of Engineering
City of Vaughan
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan, Ontario
L6A 1T1

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Dear Mr. Robinson,

As per our telephone conversation on August 30, 2004 I am writing this letter on behalf of the residents of Velmar Drive to ask the City of Vaughan Traffic Division to survey the increased traffic congestion on Velmar Drive between Village Green Avenue north to Rutherford Road, in particular, between the weekday morning hours of 7:00am to 9:00am and again between 4:00pm and 6:30pm on weekday afternoons.

The congestion levels between these times have become increasingly frustrating as residents from adjacent communities to the north and west of us are using the Weston Downs Community as a short cut to bypass congestion on major arteries such as Weston Road and Rutherford Road. In the morning, eastbound commuters along Rutherford Road are using Velmar Drive to weave their way south to Langstaff Road and onto the 400 Southbound. In the afternoon, vehicles are turning in onto Astona Road and going north on Velmar (east end) up to Village Green Avenue west to Velmar Drive (west end) and north to Rutherford Road. Many are avoiding the backlog found in the left turn lanes at the corner of Rutherford Road and Weston Road, simply trying to go west. Instead, motorists are using Velmar Drive north of Village Green as an alternate to turn left and go west on Rutherford Road. Velmar Drive was never designed to accommodate this level of congestion and traffic flow and never intended to be used as a through fair for vehicle other than those from within its community of Weston Downs.

As a result, it has made our street very dangerous to cross and drive on. As you are well aware we have a community park on 30 Velmar Drive. The increased number of cars has made it difficult and extremely dangerous for residents to cross the street safely and use the park. Secondly, turning into and out of our driveways has become an almost impossible task. On several occasions it has taken me personally more than 7 minutes to reverse out of my own driveway in what should be a simple task. We appreciate that the residents of Weston Downs must use Velmar as a means of entering and exiting our community, but we do not want it to be a through fair for others simply trying to save some time and bypassing congestion on major arteries.

Almost 15 months ago, Councillor DiVona held a public meeting at St. Clare School looking into the speeding and congestion on Weston Downs' roads. At that same meeting he was presented with a petition from residents who live on Siderno Crescent to remove the barriers along Village Green and Orr Avenues to avoid traffic flowing onto their streets. This was contrary to the studies commissioned by the Rate Payers

Association of Weston Downs who explicitly said that removing these barriers would increase the traffic along other arteries of the community if they allowed them to be removed. What that has essentially done is allowed motorists free passage and the opportunity to use other Weston Downs' roads as through fairs. The aim here is not to place the traffic burden on other residents but to ensure that no one street face the burden alone making it difficult for non residents of the community to cut through our subdivision. While the barriers in question have been removed we have seen a tremendous increase in traffic through our community just as was forecast by the study commissioned by the Weston Downs Rate Payers Association. Mr. DiVona and the City of Vaughan Traffic Department have while trying not to, "Divide a community" caused a traffic epidemic which now places the safety of those same residents in jeopardy.

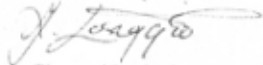
We therefore suggest the following:

- 1) A study be commissioned by the City of Vaughan Traffic Department to analyze and solve the increased traffic problem on Velmar Drive north of Village Green to Rutherford Road.
- 2) That the City of Vaughan look into ways of stemming the increased flow of traffic through the Weston Downs Community, in particular that on Velmar Drive
- 3) The traffic barriers along Village Green at Polo Crescent and on Orr Avenue at Siderno Crescent be immediately replaced as was originally designed by City of Vaughan planners and detailed by the builders on their site plan maps during sale and construction of those homes.
- 4) Increasing the time given to motorists to turn left from Weston Road to Rutherford Rd during peak traffic times.
- 5) Create an additional left turn lane on Weston Road (northbound) to Rutherford Road (westbound) allowing for more vehicles to turn and giving motorists less waiting time to get home, limiting the congestion on smaller community roads.
- 6) The center median on Weston Road be extended south from Rutherford Road to Astona Road not allowing vehicles to pull U-turns and subsequently cut through the Weston Downs Community
- 7) A no left turn sign between 4:00pm and 6:00pm be posted on Velmar Drive onto Rutherford Road and on Babak Road. This is suggested in order to not move traffic from one area of our community to another.
- 8) A no right turn sign between 7:00am and 9:00am be posted on Rutherford Road onto Velmar Drive and Babak Road. Again, this is suggested in order to not move traffic from one area of our community to another.
- 9) Now that Langstaff Road is being widened to two lanes in both directions it would be wise for the City to extend Pine Valley Road north to Rutherford allowing motorists the opportunity to use major arteries designed for heavy traffic flows giving them alternate routes to get to the west end of the city without cutting through smaller community roads. Remember the aim is not to protect one community from vehicle travel and cause another to suffer the traffic backlogs and burdens of it.

These suggestions made above are fair and do not allow the burden of traffic to be placed on other area residential streets but shared by all. Most are cost effective and simple to

enforce immediately. We kindly ask that a reply to this letter be forwarded so we may be kept abreast of the progress being made to rectify this predicament. Please feel free to contact me regarding this matter during the day at 905-832-7676 or after 4:00 p.m. at home 905-850-8912.

Sincerely,



Giovanni Losiggio
Per Residents of Velmar Drive
(north of Village Green)

c.c.: B. DiVona, Councillor Ward 3
M. Dokman, Supervisor of Transportation