

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – MAY 14, 2007

KING HIGH DRIVE PROHIBITIONS/ROAD CLOSURE TRAFFIC SURVEY RESULTS

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends:

1. That this report be received for information;
2. That should Council consider a temporary closure on King High Drive that the closure be for a trial period of 1 year;
3. That Engineering Services staff be requested to monitor the traffic impact and provide a report to a Committee of the Whole meeting after the 1 year trial period;
4. That Engineering Services staff be requested to review the intersection of Beverly Glen Boulevard and Concord Road for a possible turn prohibition and follow up with consultation with the residents;
5. That funding for the temporary closure (break-away bollards) be drawn from the 2007 Traffic Calming Capital Budget Account in the amount of \$6,400.00; and
6. That the Region of York be informed of Council's decision in this matter;

Economic Impact

There would be an impact to the 2007 Traffic Calming Capital Budget of \$6,400.00, plus applicable taxes, for the funding of the temporary road closure. The impact of a complete road closure would be to a future Capital Budget.

Communication Plan

There have been a number of previous public meetings and surveys regarding possible alternatives including partial closures, full closures and turn prohibitions for the King High Drive area. In addition to the latest survey, comments were also requested from both school boards. The decision of Council will be communicated to area residents and both school boards by means of a mail out notice and a 'C' (Construction) letter in advance of the road closure.

Purpose

To report on the results of a traffic survey sent to area residents for options regarding traffic movements at the intersection of King High Drive and Dufferin Street.

Background - Analysis and Options

King High Drive is a local road between Dufferin Street and Vaughan Boulevard. The intersection of King High Drive and Dufferin Street is under the jurisdiction of the Region of York. The area is shown on Attachment No. 1.

At its meeting of February 20, 2006, Council recommended a partial closure of King High Drive and Dufferin Street through installation of centre medians that would restrict southbound left turns, but permit other movements. The Region of York responded that they would not support the partial traffic movements closure at this intersection but would support a southbound left turn

prohibition. Typically, a response from the residents of 66.6% in support of the prohibition is required by the Region of York. A copy of the Region of York's letter is included as Attachment No. 4.

Staff prepared a survey for various options to be delivered to potentially affected residents of the following streets: Beverly Glen Boulevard (from Dufferin Street to Coldwater Court), Fairfax Court, Loma Vista Drive, King High Drive, Belfield Court, Forest Lane Drive, Lawrie Road, Concord Road, Vaughan Boulevard, and Loudon Crescent.

The survey outlined three options for the intersection of King High Drive and Dufferin Street as follows:

- Turning Prohibitions to restrict all southbound left turning vehicles from Dufferin Street to King High Drive from 7:00am to 9:00am, Monday to Friday;
- A Full Closure on King High Drive east of the commercial lands at the northeast and southeast corners of King High Drive and Dufferin Street;
- Do Nothing.

The survey was delivered on January 9, 2007 and closed for responses on January 29, 2007. A total of 390 surveys were delivered and 201 completed surveys were returned by mail, fax, or e-mail for a response rate of 52%. A copy of the survey is included on Attachment No. 2.

In addition, a petition was received from an area resident titled 'Petition against closure of King High Road at Dufferin Street'. The petition was signed by 41 residents. Staff advised the resident to have those who signed the petition send in their survey responses so their votes could be tallied into the totals. A copy of the petition is included on Attachment No. 3.

The breakdown of survey responses is as follows:

• Option A (Turning Prohibitions)	66 responses	33% of total responses
• Option B (Full Closure)	70 responses	35% of total responses
• Option C (Do Nothing)	65 responses	32% of total responses

The response percentages are evenly split amongst the 3 survey options. Based on the survey results, neither Option A for turning prohibitions nor Option B for full closure of King High Drive met the 66.6% threshold, and would not be supported by the Region of York. There were 68% of the residents in support of implementing either a turning prohibition or road closure at the Dufferin Street and King High Drive intersection.

There were 66 returned surveys from King High Drive of which 53 or 80% were in support of the full road closure at Dufferin Street and King High Drive. The most impacted residents on King High between Dufferin Street and Concord Road were 87% (34 out of 39 returned surveys) in support of a full closure.

The majority of the returned surveys (73%) on Beverly Glen Boulevard and on Concord Road between Beverly Glen Boulevard and King High Drive supported the 'Do Nothing' option, with 2 returned surveys in support of a full closure and 6 in support of a turn prohibition in this area. A significant number of residents on Beverly Glen Boulevard between Dufferin Street and Concord Road did not respond to the survey (14 out of 35 or 40%). The remaining surveyed area were evenly split on the three options.

The chart below summarizes the entire surveyed response area.

<u>Road</u>	<u># of Surveys Sent</u>	<u># of Surveys Returned</u>	<u># of Surveys Not Responding</u>	<u>Option "A"</u>	<u>Option "B"</u>	<u>Option "C"</u>
King High Dr	84	66	18	9	53	4
Concord Rd	29	16	13	7	5	4
Beverly Glen Blvd	41	25	16	5	3	17
Fairfax Ct	19	2	17	2	0	0
Loma Vista Dr	53	20	33	6	1	13
Belfield Ct	7	4	3	1	3	0
Forest Lane Dr	50	26	24	14	0	12
Lawrie Rd	47	19	28	10	2	7
Loudon Cres	23	6	17	3	0	3
Vaughan Blvd	34	15	19	8	2	5
Dufferin St	2	1	1	0	1	0

Clearly, with 68% overall resident support for implementing some form of traffic movement control, one of the two options (A or B) should be considered. An alternative to a permanent, full closure may be to consider a temporary closure of King High Drive for a period of one (1) year. Should Council approve such a closure, Engineering Services staff will monitor the traffic operation and patterns within the Subdivision and report on the findings at the end of this trial period.

Approximately eight break-away bollards would be required across King High Drive. The break-away bollard style is required to allow Fire Response into the subdivision. Staff estimates that the cost to install each bollard would be \$800.00. The estimated cost would be \$6,400.00, plus applicable taxes. The funding for this can be drawn from the 2007 Traffic Calming Capital Budget Account. There are no monies set aside in the 2007 Capital Budget for a complete closure. The cost of a permanent closure, if approved, would be allocated in a future Capital Budget.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This traffic study is consistent with Vaughan Vision 2007 as to ensure enhanced safety standards are incorporated in community designs (1.1.2).

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

Regional Implications

The Region of York has been previously requested for comments 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.

At their meeting on September 22, 2005, the Council of the Regional Municipality of York adopted to implement a southbound left turn prohibition at the intersection of Dufferin Street and King High Drive between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., Monday to Friday. The initial recommendation in the report, to close King High Drive at Dufferin Street, was supported by Regional Council.

The turning prohibitions were found to have little impact on the illegal left turns at the intersection.

Conclusion

The majority of area residents do not feel that the status quo is an option and want some form of traffic movement control. A turn prohibition at the Dufferin/King High intersection has proven in the past to be difficult to enforce. Accordingly a full closure of the intersection would appear to be the most effective means of eliminating the infiltration problem. A trial closure for one year would be an effective way to determine the impact on the community.

Should Council concur with the closure, the Engineering Services staff should be directed to continue monitoring the area and schedule a further infiltration study, traffic volume counts, turning movement counts and other studies assessing the need for and feasibility of other traffic management elements.

Attachments

1. Location Map
2. Survey titled 'Proposed Turning Prohibitions/Road Closure King High Drive at Dufferin Street'
3. Petition titled 'Petition against closure of King High Road at Dufferin Street'
4. Region of York letter – dated September 18, 2006
5. Region of York report – dated September 22, 2005

Report prepared by:

Mark Ranstoller, Senior Traffic Technologist, ext. 3141
Mike Dokman, Supervisor, Traffic Engineering, ext. 3118

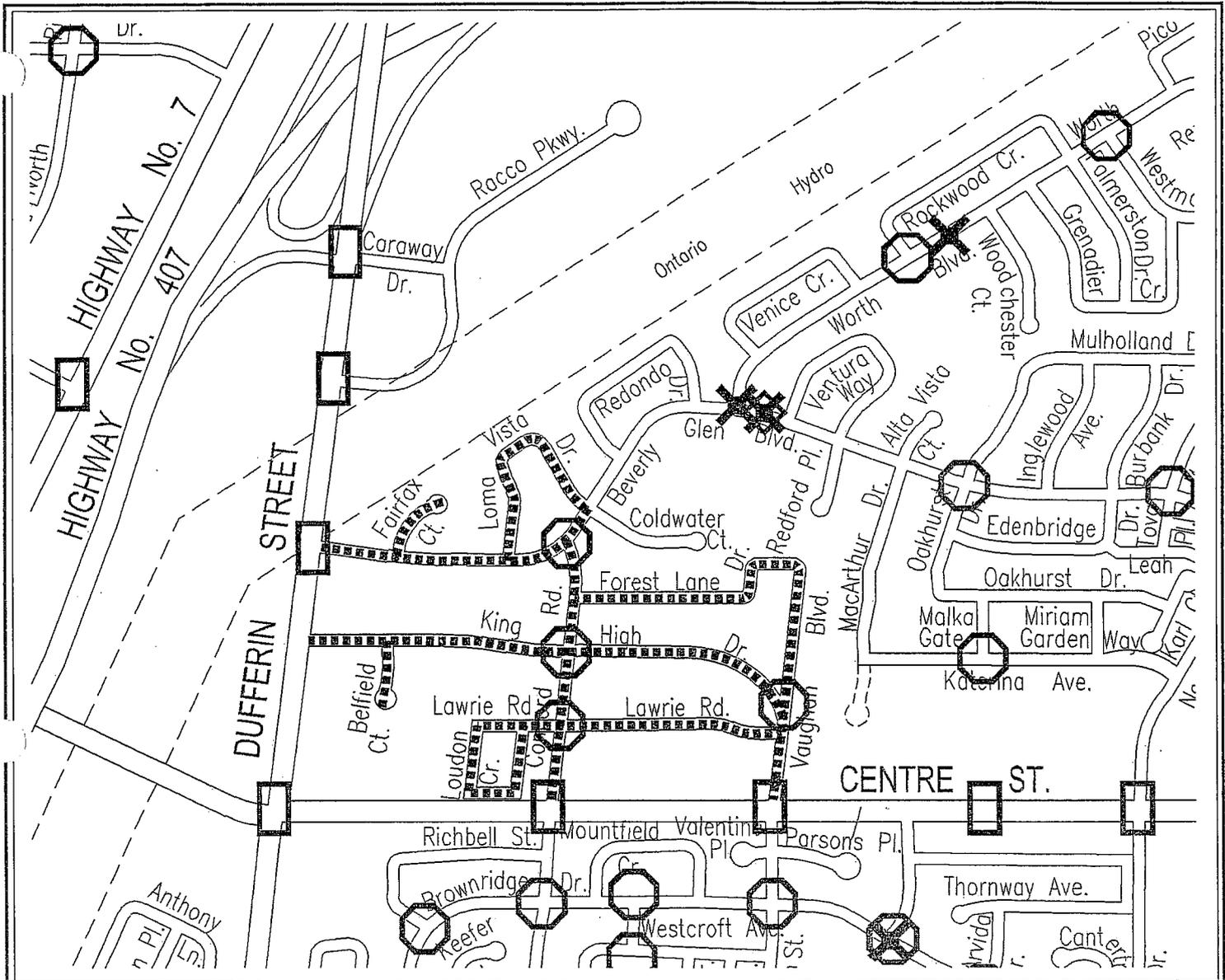
Respectfully submitted,

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

Gary Carroll, P. Eng.,
Director of Engineering Services

MR:mc

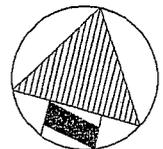
ATTACHMENT No. 1



KING HIGH DRIVE PROHIBITIONS / FULL CLOSURE TRAFFIC SURVEY RESULTS

LEGEND

-  SURVEY DELIVERY AREA
-  EXISTING TRAFFIC SIGNALS
-  EXISTING ALL-WAY STOP CONTROL
-  EXISTING SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD
-  EXISTING PEDESTRIAN SIGNAL



NOT TO SCALE



The City Above Toronto
January 8, 2007

The City of Vaughan
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan, Ontario
Canada L6A 1T1
Tel [905] 832-2281

SURVEY

PROPOSED TURNING PROHIBITIONS / ROAD CLOSURE KING HIGH DRIVE AT DUFFERIN STREET

Dear Resident:

In response to resident concerns of infiltration traffic on King High Drive, City of Vaughan staff has proposed three options for the intersection of King High Drive and Dufferin Street which includes a turning prohibition, a full road closure, or a 'Do-Nothing' approach.

The Engineering Department is interested in your opinion on the proposed options, as it will affect traffic patterns in the area. The results of the survey would proceed for the attention of Region of York Council deliberation only if 66.6% of respondents are in support of either Option.

A traffic study was conducted to determine the amount of traffic using King High Drive to Centre Street via Concord Road or Vaughan Boulevard. During the time period of 7:00-9:00am there were 75 vehicles turning onto King High Drive with 25 vehicles exiting via Concord Road and 21 vehicles exiting via Vaughan Boulevard.

The cost to close-up King High Drive at the commercial lands would be \$20,000.00.

Please indicate your support of one of the three options listed below.

- Option A – Turning Prohibitions to restrict all southbound left turning vehicles from Dufferin Street to King High Drive from 7:00am-9:00am, Monday to Friday.
- Option B – A Full Closure on King High Drive east of the commercial lands at the northeast and southeast corners of King High Drive and Dufferin Street.
- Option C – Do Nothing

For tracking purposes, please provide your address: _____

Please complete the survey and return it no later than January 29th, 2007, by any of the following methods.

Mail: Mark Ranstoller, C.E.T., Senior Traffic Technologist, Engineering Department,
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive, Vaughan, ON, L6A 1T1
Facsimile: 905-303-2045, Attention: Mark Ranstoller
E-Mail: Mark.Ranstoller@vaughan.ca

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INPUT!



Sandra Yeung Racco
Councillor

January 5, 2007

RE: King High Drive at Dufferin Street Traffic Restrictions

Dear Residents:

The issue of traffic infiltration from Dufferin Street using King High Drive has been an ongoing issue for the past 5 years.

After years of debates and discussions with residents and staff, the proposed closure of King High Drive was finally given approval by both Regional Council and City of Vaughan Council on December 12, 2005. But prior to the bylaw being enacted, a number of residents from the Beverley Glen area opposed the decision and expressed their disappointment on the lack of notification. The residents suggested that the City needed to look at alternative options prior to making a final decision.

As such, they proposed that City and Regional staff look at the possibility of constructing a raised median-island along Dufferin Street that would prevent southbound left turn movement onto King High Drive, while still allowing westbound traffic to turn left and right onto Dufferin Street.

After extensive investigation on the part of the Transportation staff of York Region, they determined that they do not support the partial closure, proposed median-island on Dufferin Street. Instead, the Region of York suggests a southbound turning prohibition.

This has resulted in City staff now issuing the attached survey to all affected area residents in order to obtain their opinion on the matter. The survey results will be used to assist staff in bringing forward a recommendation to Council for a final decision to be made.

I urge you all to take the time to fill out the survey and return it by the date indicated. With the impending completion of the commercial building at the southeast corner of this intersection, it is imperative that we resolve this in the most amicable manner possible and bring this matter to its final closure. Should you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact my office directly for more information.

Respectfully yours,

Sandra Yeung Racco
Councillor, Thornhill/Concord



NOTICE OF PETITION

A petition has been submitted with respect to the following matter and a copy is on file in the office of the City Clerk:

Agenda Item No.: 3

Item Name: **KING HIGH DRIVE PROHIBITIONS/ROAD CLOSURE
TRAFFIC SURVEY RESULTS**

Particulars of the Petition:

Dated: _____

No. of Signatures: 42

Submitted by: Area Residents

For a copy of the petition contact:

**City of Vaughan, Clerk's Department, 2141 Major Mackenzie Drive, Vaughan, L6A 1T1
Tel: (905) 832-8504 Fax: (905) 832-8535**

ATTACHMENT NO. 4



Transportation and Works Department
Roads Branch, Operations
Fax: 905-895-7735

September 18, 2006

Mr. Mark Ranstoller
Senior Traffic Technologist
Engineering Department
City of Vaughan
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan ON L6A 1T1

Dear Mr. Ranstoller:

**Re: Dufferin Street (Y.R. 53) and King High Drive
Proposed Centre Median Island Design
City of Vaughan
File No. T09 G VA 2006**

CITY OF VAUGHAN ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT RECEIVED SEP 21 2006	
REFER TO	NOTED
<i>MR</i>	
FILE	NAME

The Regional Municipality of York has reviewed the proposed median design as submitted to potentially restrict southbound Dufferin Street traffic from turning left on to King High Drive and allowing westbound traffic on King High Drive to turn left on to Dufferin Street.

The Regional Municipality of York has previously provided comments regarding this proposal and the proposed median island on Dufferin Street. The Region does not support this proposal as:

- The design is not conducive to accommodate larger vehicles, such as single unit trucks or vehicles towing trailers. Even cars may have to reduce their normal speeds to safely turn into the gap between the median islands. Slowing down normal turning speeds may lead to more conflicts with northbound vehicles;
- The southerly median island denies left turning drivers, exiting King High Drive, the opportunity to use the centre lane on Dufferin Street to accelerate before safely merging into southbound traffic on Dufferin Street;
- The collision history, covering the period of January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2005, at this location, revealed a total of four reported collisions where only one of these collisions involved a southbound left turning vehicle;
- With the proposed design it may still be possible for certain vehicles to perform southbound left turns directly from the southbound through lane on Dufferin Street.

September 18, 2006
Mark Ranstoller, City of Vaughan
Proposed Centre Median Island Design
Dufferin and King High Drive
File No. T09 G VA 2006

2

It is suggested that instead of constructing centre median islands, a southbound turning prohibition be implemented. To implement a turning prohibition ultimately requires a report to Regional Council before the turning prohibitions are put in place. Prior to Regional staff drafting a Council report prohibiting these turning movements, documentation from the area residents supporting the prohibition must be submitted to this office to determine a consensus for the potential turning prohibition. In addition any future turning prohibitions must consider the possible impact to access opportunity and traffic circulation for any future development in the area.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me at 905-895-1200, extension 5212, or Duanè Carson, Technologist, Traffic Engineering and Road Safety at extension 5221.

Sincerely,



For Zoran Postic
Manager, Traffic Engineering and Road Safety

ZP/dc/cr

Copy to: Brian Harrison, P.Eng., Director, Operations

G:\Transportation\T09 - Traffic\T09 G Traffic General\T09 GVA City of Vaughan\2006\06 Sept 18 - Dufferin and King High Dr - Proposed Median.doc

ATTACHMENT NO. 5

York Region

Clause No. 15 in Report No. 7 of the Transportation and Works Committee was adopted, as amended, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting on September 22, 2005.

15

KING HIGH DRIVE CLOSURE CITY OF VAUGHAN

(Regional Council, at its meeting of September 22, 2005, amended the following clause by deleting the Committee recommendation and adopting the staff recommendations relating to the closure of King High Drive at Dufferin Street.)

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the Region of York implement a southbound left-turn prohibition at the intersection of Dufferin Street and King High Drive between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., Monday to Friday.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The proposal by the City of Vaughan to close King High Drive at Dufferin Street (Y.R. 53), in the City of Vaughan, be supported by Regional Council.
2. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the Clerk of the City of Vaughan.

2. PURPOSE

This report is to seek Regional Council support on the proposal by the City of Vaughan to close King High Drive at its intersection with Dufferin Street.

3. BACKGROUND

King High Drive is a local residential street located north of Centre Street in the City of Vaughan. King High Drive connects with Dufferin Street at an un-signalized "tee" intersection. King High Drive converts to Concord Road and together they provide a connection to Centre Street, avoiding the busy intersection of Dufferin Street and Centre Street. The volume of traffic on King High Drive has increased as a result. In conjunction with a local area traffic committee, several measures have been investigated to aid in traffic calming on this residential street.

The City of Vaughan has sent a Council recommendation (Attachment 2) to the Region to review the feasibility of closing King High Drive at Dufferin Street or consider the implementation of a southbound left turn prohibition at the intersections between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., on week-days.

Clause No. 15

Report No. 7

Transportation and Works Committee

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

The implementation of turning prohibitions requires appropriate signage and by-laws. A key component to make the prohibition effective is proper enforcement. Past practice demonstrates that compliance to these prohibitions is relatively low.

In some cases, turning prohibitions are the only reasonable solution to reducing infiltration into residential areas. In this case, the option of closing King High Drive is available.

The permanent closure of King High Drive would eliminate an intersection on Dufferin Street thereby enhancing overall traffic safety on the Regional road. Access to King High Drive can be gained via Concord Road from Beverley Glen Boulevard or Centre Street.

Staff has reviewed the proposal to close King High Drive, and has found no operational reasons to object to the closure. It is, therefore, recommended that the Regional Clerk forward a copy of this report to the Clerk of the City of Vaughan, notifying the City of Vaughan of Regional Council's support of the closure. A location plan is provided as *Attachment 1*.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

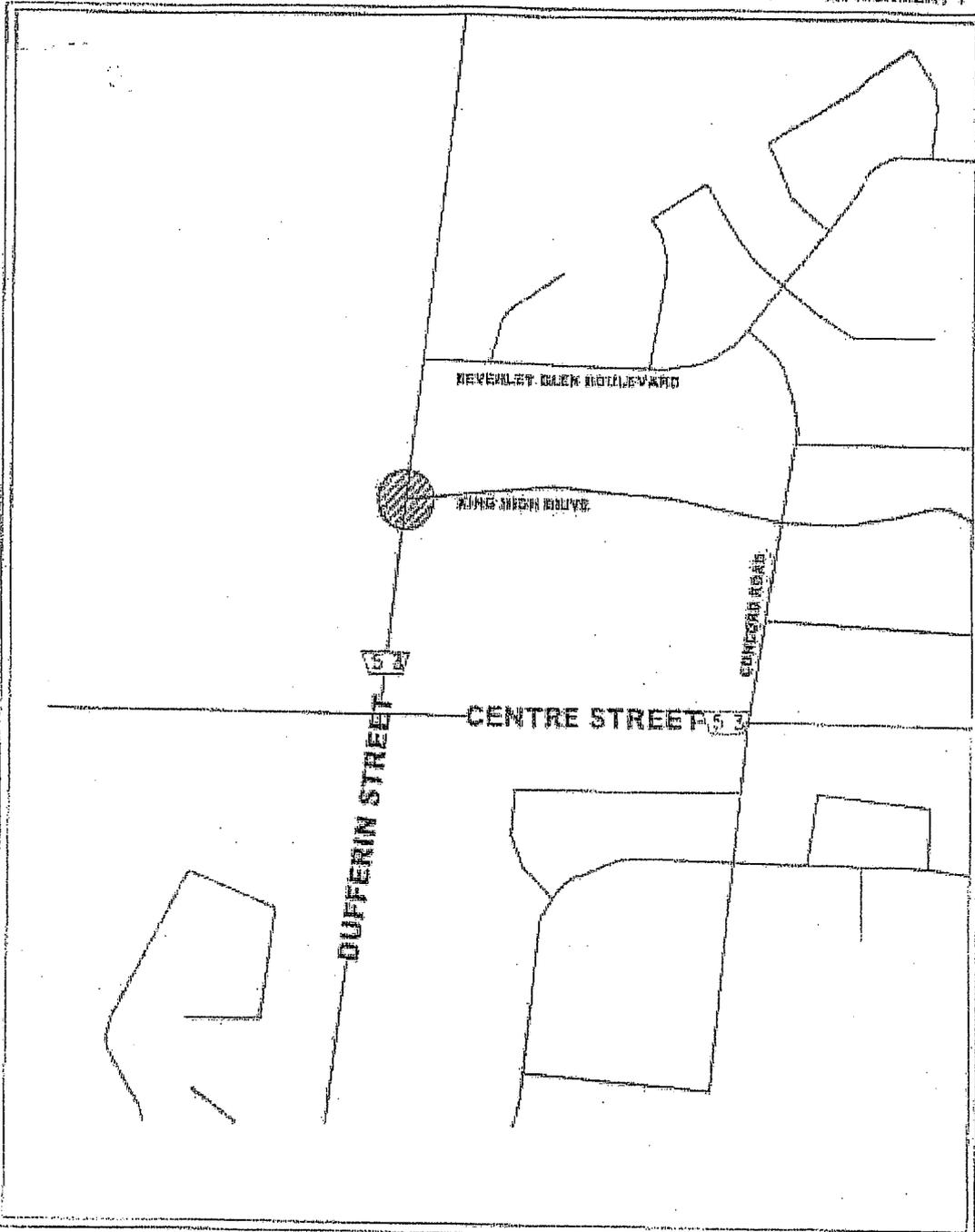
This report supports the City of Vaughan's proposal to close King High Drive at its intersection with Dufferin Street, in the City of Vaughan.

7. CONCLUSION

The City of Vaughan sent a notification to the Region indicating its intent to either close King High Drive, at Dufferin Street, or request a southbound left turn prohibition in the City of Vaughan. Staff does not identify any operational reasons to object to the closure. It is, therefore, recommended that Regional Council support the closure King High Drive.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

The attachments referred to in this clause were included on the agenda for the September 7, 2005 Committee meeting.



LOCATION PLAN

DUFFERIN STREET AND KING HIGH DRIVE
City of Vaughan



Study area



Turk Region Transportation and Works