

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – JUNE 23, 2009

THORNHILL WOODS DRIVE PROPOSED 'U-TURN' PROHIBITION WARD 4

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends:

That By-law 284-94, the Consolidated Traffic By-law, be amended to add a 'U-turn' prohibition on Thornhill Woods Drive from Autumn Hill Boulevard to the south property line of Thornhill Woods Public School.

Contribution to Sustainability

The implementation of the proposed prohibition would create a safer environment for motorists, the crossing guard and school children in front of the school on Thornhill Woods Drive.

Economic Impact

The cost to install the signs would be an initial impact on the 2009 Operating Budget. The on-going costs to maintain the signs would be incorporated in future Operating Budgets.

Communications Plan

The School Council Chair has been advised that this report is on the agenda for this meeting. Engineering Services staff will notify York Regional Police to request enforcement of this prohibition. Engineering Services staff will advise the School Council Chair of Council's final decision on this matter.

Purpose

To review the feasibility of implementing a 'U-turn' prohibition on Thornhill Woods Drive, in response to a request from the Thornhill Woods Public School Council Chair.

Background - Analysis and Options

Thornhill Woods Public School is located on the east side of Thornhill Woods Drive between Autumn Hill Boulevard and Coltrane Drive. There is an existing all-way stop and school crossing at the intersection of Thornhill Woods Drive and Coltrane Drive. There is an existing parking prohibition on the west side of Thornhill Woods Drive between Autumn Hill Boulevard and Coltrane Drive. Refer to Attachment No.1 for the area road network.

Engineering Services staff received a request from the Thornhill Woods Public School Council Chair to review the frequency of U-turn movements on Thornhill Woods Drive in front of the school. The Thornhill Woods Public School Council Chair stated that numerous vehicles make a U-turn in front of Thornhill Woods Public School to obtain a closer parking spot for pick up/drop off of their children. This traffic movement along with the existing traffic congestion in front of the school is unsafe on Thornhill Woods Drive.

Staff conducted observations on Tuesday, May 5, 2009, during the morning peak time period of 8:25 am to 9:15 am and on Thursday, April 23, 2009 during the afternoon peak time period of 3:15 pm to 3:50 pm on Thornhill Woods Drive, just south of Autumn Hill Boulevard. The weather during both studies was sunny and clear, the data collected is summarized below:

Date	Time	Total U-Turns
April 23, 2009	8:25 am – 9:15 am	7
May 05, 2009	3:15 pm – 3:50 pm	3

During staff's observations, the majority of the vehicles parked on the east side of Thornhill Woods Drive to drop off/pick up their children and then proceeded northbound. There were a few vehicles parked on the west side of Thornhill Woods Drive, south of Coltrane Drive (not within the parking prohibition zone), to drop off/pick up their children, and then proceeded southbound. There were ten U-turn vehicle movements observed in front of the school. The majority of these movements occurred in the morning.

To improve the overall traffic safety due to the number of U-turns and possible safety conflicts near the Thornhill Woods Public School accesses and the intersection of Thornhill Woods Drive and Coltrane Drive, it would be beneficial to install a 'U-turn' prohibition on Thornhill Woods Drive from Autumn Hill Boulevard to the south property line of Thornhill Woods Public School.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health & Wellness – to advocate for, protect and enhance community safety, health and wellness through education, design and enforcement.

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

Regional Implications

Not Applicable.

Conclusion

Based on this review, it is recommended that a 'U-turn' prohibition be installed on Thornhill Woods Drive from Autumn Hill Boulevard to the south property line of Thornhill Woods Public School.

Attachments

1. Location Map

Report prepared by:

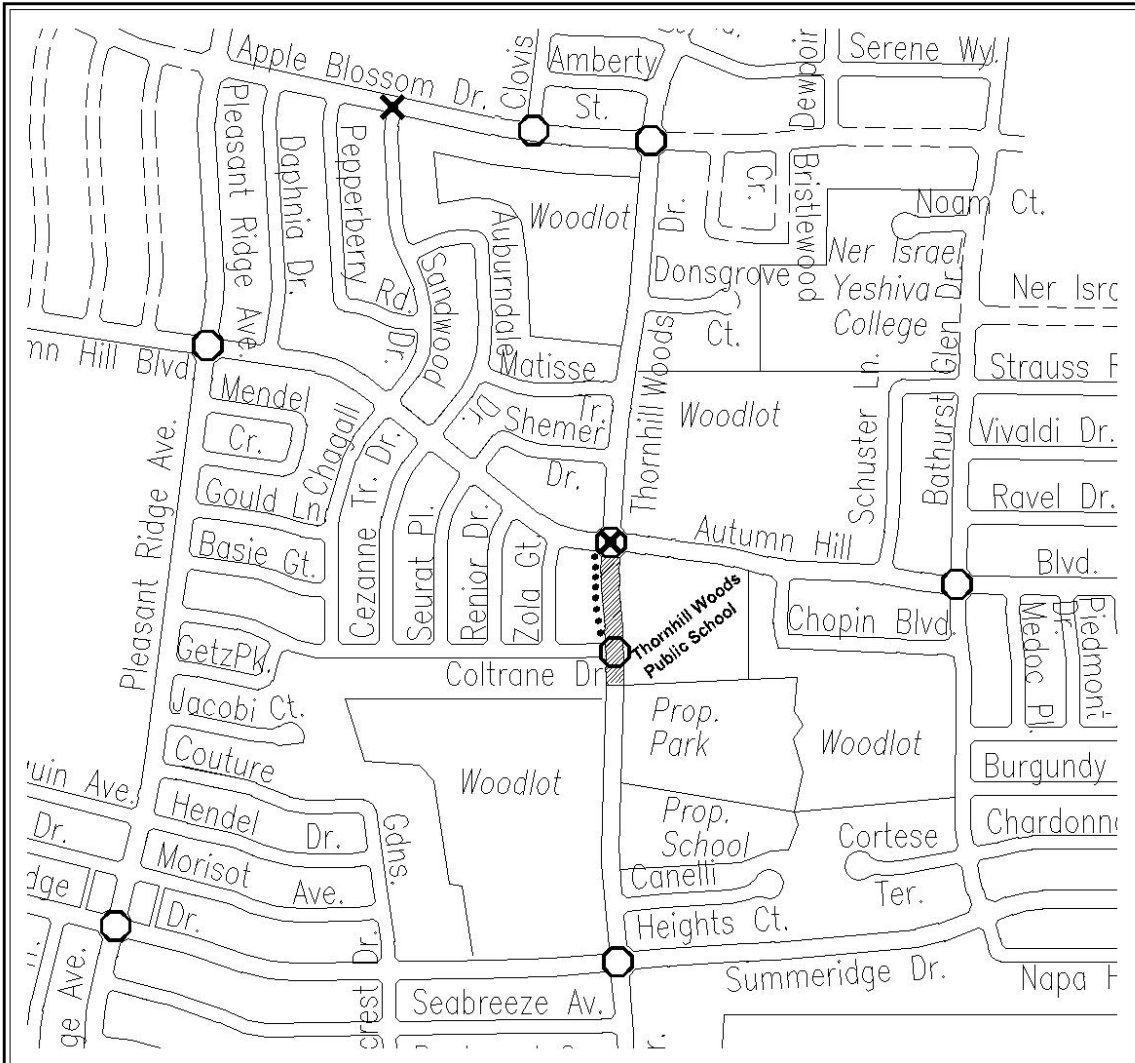
Peter Trinh, Traffic Analyst, Ext. 3120
Mike Dokman, Supervisor, Traffic Engineering, Ext. 3118

Respectfully submitted,

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





Jack Graziosi, P. Eng.
Director of Engineering Services

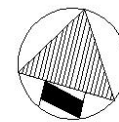
ATTACHMENT No. 1



THORNHILL WOODS DRIVE PROPOSED U-TURN PROHIBITION

LEGEND

-  ROADWAY UNDER REVIEW
-  EXISTING ALLWAY STOP CONTROL
-  EXISTING SUPERVISED SCHOOL CROSSING
-  EXISTING PARKING PROHIBITION



NOT TO SCALE