

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE JANUARY 17, 2012

ONTARIO TRAFFIC MANUAL BOOK 15: PEDESTRIAN CROSSING FACILITIES

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends that this report regarding Ontario Traffic Manual Book 15: Pedestrian Crossings Facilities be received for information purposes.

Contribution to Sustainability

Ontario Traffic Manual Book 15: Pedestrian Crossings Facilities will help establish a predictable roadway environment in Ontario and safer driving behaviour. Safer pedestrian crossings will assist in making Ontario's municipalities more walkable, promote active transportation, and sequentially reduce transportation related greenhouse gas emissions. As such, the City's support for Ontario Traffic Manual Book 15 upholds many of the goals and objectives of Green Directions Vaughan, in particular Objectives 3.1 and 3.3:

Objective 3.1 *To develop and sustain a network of sidewalks, paths and trails that supports all modes of non-vehicular transportation*

Objective 3.3 *Reduce single occupant vehicle (SOV) trips by supporting active transportation, car pooling and public transit*

Economic Impact

There are no immediate budgetary impacts resulting from this report. However, the City contributed staff resources and \$10,000 from the Commission of Engineering and Public Works Operating Budget towards the development of Ontario Traffic Manual Book 15. Contributions also came from the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO), and 16 municipalities from across Ontario, including the City of Ottawa, City of Toronto, Regional Municipality of Waterloo, Regional Municipality of York, and City of Vaughan.

Communications Plan

Not applicable.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the recently released the Ontario Traffic Manual Book 15: Pedestrian Crossing Facilities, which the City helped develop through staff participation on the related technical committee and through a funding contribution.

Background - Analysis and Options

The Ontario Traffic Manual (OTM) is a traffic engineering publication that will ultimately be made up of a series of 22 Books. These books will provide information and guidance for transportation practitioners, particularly at municipalities. The series is being generated over a period of time, and updated on a regular basis. Some of the books are new, while others incorporate updated material from the Ontario Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and the King's Highway Guide Signing Policy Manual (KHGSPM). To date, the MTO has released 11 books encompassing guidelines on different traffic control devices, including signs, temporary

conditions, markings and delineations, traffic signals, advanced traffic management systems, and the latest book, which covers pedestrian crossing facilities.

Ontario Traffic Manual Book 15: Pedestrian Crossing Facilities

OTM Book 15: Pedestrian Crossing Facilities is a guideline on pedestrian crossing applications. In 2009, the Ontario Traffic Council retained HDR / iTRANS and Cole Engineering Group to develop OTM Book 15. To help guide the development of the manual, the Ontario Traffic Council also formed a technical committee, which included experts in the field from the MTO and from 16 municipalities across Ontario including Vaughan.

In November 2011, the MTO completed and released OTM Book 15. The purpose of Book 15 is to provide practical guidance and application information on the planning, design, and operation of pedestrian roadway crossings for transportation practitioners, and to promote uniformity of approaches across Ontario. Book 15 will be the primary document used by municipalities in Ontario and will provide a basis for road authorities to generate or update their own guidelines and standards. Book 15 contains information on legal requirements, pedestrian crossing devices (i.e. controlled and uncontrolled crossings, crossings at roundabouts, crossings at right-turn channels, railway crossings), physically separated facilities, and accessibility with specific requirements according to *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (2005)*.

In Vaughan, Book 15 will be used to design consistent and safe pedestrian crossings in new and existing communities. All Vaughan residents who travel by foot will see the most benefit, including pedestrian groups requiring special needs (e.g., school children, the elderly, and persons with a mobility limitation).

Ontario Traffic Manual Book 18: Bicycle Facilities

Building on the success of Book 15, the Ontario Traffic Council has secured a commitment from MTO to proceed with the development of another book in the OTM series, OTM Book 18: Bicycle Facilities. Vaughan Transportation Engineering staff is again participating on the technical committee for Book 18, which consists of traffic and bicycle infrastructure experts. OTM Book 18 is anticipated to be finalized in Fall 2012. Vaughan is also a funding partner in this initiative.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

In consideration of Vaughan Vision 2020, this report relates to the following Strategic Initiatives:

- Pursue Excellence in Service Delivery
- Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health and Wellness
- Plan and Manage Growth & Economic Vitality

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

Regional Implications

The Region of York contributed financially to the development of OTM Book 15 and Regional staff participated on the technical committee.

Conclusion

The City has participated in the development of the OTM Book 15: Pedestrian Crossing Facilities, which was released by MTO in November 2011. The OTM incorporates current best practices in Ontario and will promote uniformity of approaches across Ontario, which will help establish a more predictable roadway environment and safer driving behaviour.

OTM Book 18: Bicycle Facilities is currently under development and is anticipated to be finalized in Fall 2012. The City is again making a financial contribution, and is participating on the technical committee.

Attachments

N/A

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