

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Tuesday, May 10, 2022

WARD(S): 4

TITLE: U-TURN PROHIBITION REVIEW BALDWIN AVENUE, SOUTH OF HIGHWAY 7

FROM:

Zoran Postic, Deputy City Manager, Public Works

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

This report seeks Council approval to implement a U-turn prohibition on Baldwin Avenue south of Highway 7 to Hillside Avenue to improve traffic operations.

Report Highlights

- In collaboration with York Region, a traffic data and operational review indicates excessive U-turn maneuvers near the intersection of Highway 7 and Baldwin Avenue/Bowes Road raising traffic operational concerns.
- A U-turn prohibition on Baldwin Avenue, south of Highway 7 to Hillside Avenue, will reduce traffic conflicts amongst road users and improve traffic operations on Baldwin Avenue.
- It is recommended that a U-turn prohibition be implemented along Baldwin Avenue from Highway 7 to Hillside Avenue.

Recommendations

1. That the implementation of a U-turn prohibition on Baldwin Avenue south of Highway 7 to Hillside Avenue be approved;
2. That a By-law be enacted to amend By-law 284-94, the Consolidated Traffic By-law, to add a U-turn prohibition on Baldwin Avenue, from Highway 7 to Hillside Avenue; and
3. That the City Clerk forward a copy of this report to the Region of York and York Regional Police.

Background

A high demand for eastbound left turns at the intersection of Highway 7 and Baldwin Avenue/Bowes Road results in U-turn traffic movements.

There are concerns with regards to vehicles performing U-turn maneuvers along Baldwin Avenue to avoid the eastbound left turn movement at the intersection of Highway 7 and Baldwin Avenue/Bowes Road.

Baldwin Avenue is a two-lane, local roadway with an urban cross-section, 22.0 metre right-of-way and an 8.0 metre pavement width. No sidewalks exist along either side of the roadway. A commercial driveway on the east side of Baldwin Avenue provides access to a commercial property. Several residential driveways exist along Baldwin Avenue. The area is shown in Attachment No.1.

Highway 7 and Baldwin Avenue/Bowes Road is a signalized intersection under the jurisdiction of York Region. Due to a high number of left-turn movements at this intersection, motorists intending to proceed northbound along Bowes Road are driving south on Baldwin Avenue and performing U-turns mostly near the commercial driveway located 30 metres south of the signalized intersection. The area north of Highway 7 and Baldwin Avenue/Bowes is zoned for industrial use.

Previous Reports/Authority

N/A

Analysis and Options

U-turn traffic movements create traffic operational concerns on Baldwin Avenue from Highway 7 to Hillside Avenue.

A signal timing review was undertaken on December 8th, 2021 in coordination with York Region to investigate delays associated with eastbound left turn movements at the intersection. The Region reviewed the operations at the intersection and concluded that sufficient time is available to accommodate the eastbound left-turn movements.

The Region also provided the traffic study results shown in the table below indicating the number of U-turns along Baldwin Avenue:

DATE	TIME	# OF U-TURNS
December 8 th , 2021	7:00am to 7:00pm	43

The traffic study results indicate that there was an excessive number of U-turn maneuvers performed over the 12-hour period reviewed. U-turn movements close to the intersection of Highway 7 and Baldwin Avenue/Bowes Road lead to a number of conflicts with pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists in the local community. The absence of a sidewalk along Baldwin Avenue also increases the likelihood of a pedestrian collision with an excessive number of vehicles performing U-turn maneuvers. In addition, the narrow width of Baldwin Avenue results in U-turns performed as three-point turns, further increasing the likelihood of conflicts with pedestrians and cyclists.

U-turn maneuvers also impact business operations in the area by impeding access for vehicles destined to/from the commercial property south of the Highway 7 and Baldwin Avenue/Bowes intersection.

A U-turn prohibition is proposed on Baldwin Avenue from Highway 7 to Hillside Avenue to improve traffic operations.

The proposed U-turn prohibition will discourage motorists from making U-turn maneuvers on Baldwin Avenue. This will minimize the potential conflict with road users along Baldwin Avenue and improve traffic operations.

Financial Impact

The capital costs associated with installing the U-turn signs is estimated to be \$350 and is supported in the approved 2022 Operating Budget. The on-going cost to maintain the signs is estimated to be \$150 per annum and will be incorporated in future operating budgets through the budget process.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

York Region has reviewed the signal timings and confirmed that sufficient signal timing is available to accommodate the eastbound left-turn movements at the Highway 7 and Baldwin Avenue/Bowes Road intersection.

The Region also confirmed that a U-turn prohibition along Baldwin Avenue would not have a negative impact on the operation of this regional intersection.

Conclusion

It is recommended that a U-turn prohibition be implemented on Baldwin Avenue from Highway 7 to Hillside Avenue to improve traffic operations.

For more information, please contact:

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Margie Chung, Manager of Traffic Engineering, ext. 6173.

Attachments

1. Location Map

Prepared by

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Approved by



Zoran Postic, Deputy City Manager
Public Works

Reviewed by



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