

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Tuesday, June 16, 2020

WARD(S): 1, 3

**TITLE: RECONSTRUCTION OF MAJOR MACKENZIE DRIVE -
TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF COASTER WAY**

FROM:

Nick Spensieri, Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure Development

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To seek approval for a temporary road closure of Coaster Way from Amusement Drive to Wellness Way for the period from August 01, 2020 through to April 30, 2021. This closure will facilitate the timely and efficient construction of the existing bridge under Major Mackenzie Drive, as part of York Region's Major Mackenzie Drive Road improvements project from Highway 400 to Jane Street – construction work is anticipated to commence in August 2020.

These construction activities have been planned and scheduled to meet the timelines stipulated to allow for the Major Mackenzie Drive project as well as the York Region Transit Bus Terminal and the York Region Eastern Underpass Pavilion, in conjunction with the Major Mackenzie Drive road improvements.

Report Highlights

- Coaster Way serves those travelling to and from the lands north and south of Major Mackenzie Drive between Highway 400 and Jane Street. In addition to Canada's Wonderland, in the near future, it will serve the Mackenzie Vaughan Hospital and the York Region Transit Terminal.
- The temporary closure of Coaster Way will be mitigated by the provision of temporary two-way traffic on Amusement Drive along with temporary traffic signals at the Major Mackenzie Drive/Amusement Drive/Wellness Way intersection.
- All other reasonable alternatives to a temporary closure were explored and ruled out due to duration of impact to road users and impact to adjacent projects including York Region.
- Given the traffic volumes in the area and the various construction activities across the right-of-way, there are instances in which work would be more efficiently completed at night (i.e. storm sewers).
- There is nominal residential development in the area. Accordingly, should the Region see benefit in undertaking construction activity at night, it would provide greater efficiency and safer operations, compared to during daytime construction during some construction activities.
- City staff will work with York Region's communications staff to provide regular and timely notification of work.

Recommendation

1. That the necessary by-law be enacted authorizing the temporary road closure of Coaster Way for the period from August 1, 2020 through to April 30, 2021, between Amusement Drive and Wellness Way.

Background

York Region received approval of the Major Mackenzie Drive Environmental Assessment in March 2019

The Region completed a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) study for Major Mackenzie Drive from Highway 400 to Jane Street in March 2019. The EA study addressed necessary improvements, adjacent to the future hospital, Canada's Wonderland and Major Mackenzie Drive across the Highway 400 interchange. The recommendations of the study are to widen Major Mackenzie Drive from Highway 400 to Jane Street to six lanes and to provide sidewalks and cycling facilities.

Other infrastructure projects will be underway in and around the Major Mackenzie Drive corridor at the same time

MTO is currently improving Highway 400, from Major Mackenzie Drive to King Vaughan Road. The widening and improvements on Highway 400 are scheduled to be completed in 2021.

A new York Region Transit bus terminal is proposed on the south side of Major Mackenzie Drive opposite the new Mackenzie Vaughan Hospital. Construction of the terminal is scheduled to begin in 2020 and includes retrofitting the existing vehicular underpass east of Wellness Way/Amusement Drive for pedestrian passage between the terminal on the south side and the hospital on the north side.

In collaboration with Mackenzie Vaughan Hospital, the Region is working to complete the design of an elevator pavilion on the north side of Major Mackenzie Drive. The construction of the pavilion is expected to begin in 2020, connecting the pedestrian underpass and providing safer and more convenient access between Major Mackenzie Drive, the transit terminal and the hospital.

Common among all the adjacent projects is Major Mackenzie Drive. Once operational, these improvements will improve traffic flow, travel to and from the Mackenzie Vaughan Hospital, Highway 400 and adjacent communities and commercial retail spaces.

York Region is nearing completion of the design and is preparing to tender the works for the Major Mackenzie Drive improvement

York Region initiated the design of Major Mackenzie Drive from Highway 400 to Jane Street in May 2019, soon after completion of the Environmental Assessment. The design project has been a priority alongside the adjacent projects and is currently in preparation to be tendered.

In coordinating the project works, it was determined that the widening of the north and south side of the Coaster Way bridge would need to be completed simultaneously and without local traffic to reduce the length of impact on road use, improve efficiency and safety and allow for sufficient separation with adjacent projects.

At the same time, in considering traffic volumes in the area and the various construction activities across the right of way, there are instances in which work would be more efficiently completed at night (i.e. storm sewers).

It is essential to coordinate delivery of the overall improvements in the corridor and minimize impact and disruption to travelers and the community.

An exemption to the Noise Control By-law is not required to complete night work

The By-law and Compliance, Licensing and Permit Services Department has been consulted and has advised that an exemption is not required, as this is necessary municipal work. York Region is expected to carry out all work with noise mitigation in mind. York Region will notify residents and businesses impacted by the construction.

Previous Reports/Authority

N/A

Analysis and Options

Coaster Way is a two lane, one-way road connecting Amusement Drive on the south side of Major Mackenzie Drive and Wellness Way on the north. This section of road serves Canada's Wonderland, the soon to be opened Mackenzie Vaughan Hospital and York Region's Transit Terminal.

The Coaster Way bridge requires widening on both the north and south sides to accommodate the improvement of Major Mackenzie Drive from four to six lanes.

Alternatives to the road closure were considered

Alternatives considered included widening of the bridge one side at a time, or performing both sides concurrently, both with or without maintaining traffic on Coaster Way under the bridge during construction. Also considered was the timing and delivery of the adjacent projects, in particular the York Region Transit Terminal and the Elevator Pavilion.

On analysis, it was quickly determined that a closure would increase productivity of contractor works and would facilitate safer construction methods. Integral to the temporary closure is a bypass route which includes temporary signals and two-way traffic on Amusement Drive.

Consideration was also given to the alternatives for undertaking night work for works which might span the right-of-way (i.e. servicing crossings) and would, in typical daytime traffic and congestion in the area, result in less than efficient construction and an increased impact to the travelling public during the day. Accordingly, for service crossings or other works required, within the right-of-way, it has been determined that the work will be more efficiently undertaken at night.

Where necessary, staff will work with York Region to facilitate and communicate works during the temporary closure from August 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021, and should there be any need for nighttime work during the course of the entire contract starting from August 1, 2020 to October 2022.

Financial Impact

Adoption of this report has no adverse financial impact to the City.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

Staff will co-ordinate the temporary road closure and traffic management plan with York Region, including the temporary reconfiguration of Amusement Drive to two-way travel, and a temporary signal timing plan at the Major Mackenzie Drive/Wellness Way/Amusement Drive intersection which is under the jurisdiction of York Region.

Communications staff from the City and York Region staff will work collaboratively to provide regular and timely work notifications.

Conclusion

The temporary road closure of Coaster Way has been determined to be the optimum alternative to facilitate the widening of the Major Mackenzie Drive bridge over Coaster Way. Using this construction approach will reduce the time required and thus the overlap with adjacent contracts. It will also allow more efficient, less obtrusive, and safer means to construct the Coaster Way bridge, thereby minimizing disruption to the travelling public.

For more information, please contact Vince Musacchio, Director, Infrastructure Planning and Corporate Asset Management, at ext. 8311.

Attachments

1. Project Map
2. Proposed Coaster Way closure

Prepared by

Gino Martino, Infrastructure Planning/Programming Lead, Ext. 8746

In consultation with Margie Chung, Manager, Traffic Engineering, Ext. 6173