

Committee of the Whole (1) Report

DATE: Tuesday, January 19, 2021

WARD(S): 1

TITLE: NAPIER STREET ROAD CLOSURE STATUS UPDATE

FROM:

Zoran Postic, Deputy City Manager, Public Works

ACTION: FOR INFORMATION

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on a work plan to undertake the feasibility of closing part or all of Napier Street at Stegman's Mill Road, including projected milestones and timelines.

Report Highlights

- Residents have submitted a petition with concerns for Napier Street including non-local vehicular traffic, truck traffic and sightline issues.
- At the November 17, 2020 Council meeting, Council directed staff to complete a feasibility study of closing part or all of Napier Street at Stegman's Mills Road, and to carry out public consultation as deemed necessary.
- A preliminary review has been conducted to develop a work plan which is inclusive of a community engagement program.
- It is anticipated that a final report will be presented to Council in November 2021.

Recommendations

1. That this report be received for information.

Background

Residents in the Napier Street and Stegman's Mill Road community have raised concerns with cut-through traffic on the roads within the area and sightline issues at the intersection of Napier Street and Stegman's Mill Road.

Napier Street is a local road with a 7.25m pavement width. The street is approximately 320m in length from Stegman's Mill Road to its northerly limit. Napier Street also intersects with Kellam Street and John Street, which in turn intersects with Islington Avenue.

There are no sidewalks on Napier Street and parking is limited to the east side of the street. Attachment No. 1 shows Napier Street and the surrounding neighbourhood.

Area residents have raised concerns about Napier Street which include non-local traffic using Napier Street to travel to and from Islington Avenue and Stegman's Mill Road, speeding, truck traffic, and noise from neighbouring commercial uses on Islington Avenue.

Sightline concerns have also been raised with respect to the intersection of Napier Street and Stegman's Mill Road for outbound traffic from Napier Street on to Stegman's Mill Road. As mitigation, the City has implemented improvements inclusive of a mirror installed at the intersection of Stegman's Mill Road and Napier Street to view approaching vehicles, enhanced intersection warning signs, and vegetation trimming.

In November 2020, Council directed staff to complete a feasibility study of closing part or all of Napier Street at Stegman's Mill Road, and to carry out public consultation as deemed necessary.

On November 17, 2020, Council directed staff, to complete a feasibility study and report back on the closing of part or all of Napier Street. This also included an update on the status and associated workplan by January 2021.

A petition from area residents was received citing concerns including non-local traffic using Napier Street to bypass Islington Avenue and Stegman's Mill Road intersection, and that truck traffic is using the street despite narrow road widths and truck prohibitions on both Islington Avenue and Stegman's Mill Road.

In addition, a sightline concern was raised for the intersection of Napier Street and Stegman's Mill Road.

Previous Reports/Authority

Committee of the Whole Report No. 54, Item 9:

<https://pub-vaughan.escibemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=53257>

<https://pub-vaughan.escibemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=53258>

Analysis and Options

Staff have completed a preliminary assessment and developed a work plan inclusive of the necessary traffic review to inform the feasibility study.

As part of the traffic study, staff will identify and analyze traffic issues present in the Napier Street and Stegman's Mill community and surrounding area. Cut-through traffic, truck traffic, the feasibility of a Napier Street road closure, and the implications to the street network will be considered. A safety assessment of the intersection of Napier Street and Stegman's Mill Road will also be included. The completed study will include recommended option(s) to address the concerns identified.

Public feedback received from the residents of Napier Street and Stegman's Mill Road community through a community engagement component will be included to determine the recommended option(s).

The traffic study will include a community engagement component for the residents of Napier Street and Stegman's Mill Road community.

A community engagement component will be part of the traffic study to ensure that all residents of the Napier Street and Stegman's Mill Road community that use the road network have an opportunity to provide feedback used to inform the recommended option(s).

The community engagement component will include a notice to residents advising of study commencement. A project website will be developed, and residents will have an opportunity to join a stakeholder's list. A public meeting is planned to be scheduled in June 2021 to present the results and analysis of the traffic studies, and to review the options identified.

The study will occur from mid-March to July to ensure the collection of valid, accurate, and relevant data; and to increase resident participation.

November to March are not ideal months for collecting traffic data as winter weather conditions limit the speed and pedestrian data that can accurately be collected. Data collection is traditionally conducted in Spring and Fall to reflect optimal conditions. It is also more difficult to engage the community during the winter season. Further, Link 427 anticipates reaching substantial completion of Highway 427 north of Highway 7 by November 30. The opening of that segment is anticipated to occur sometime in 2021 and could impact traffic movements in the area. To ensure that valid, accurate, and relevant data is collected, as well as increase resident participation in the community engagement, the study will occur from mid-March to July 2021. The feasibility study report is anticipated to be finalized in September 2021.

Following review of the findings of the study, staff anticipates bringing forward a report to Council in November 2021.

Financial Impact

There is no economic impact associated with this report.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

Staff will be working in consultation with Regional staff as the study progresses, as it relates to impacts on regional roads.

Conclusion

Residents in the Napier Street and Stegman's Mill Road community submitted a petition citing concerns with respect to non-local traffic using Napier road to bypass the Islington Avenue and Stegman's Mill Road intersection. To address the concerns, Council directed staff to complete a feasibility study investigating the closure of part or all of Napier Street at Stegman's Mill Road. Staff have conducted a preliminary review of the street to develop a traffic review work plan. Data collection and analysis to inform the feasibility is anticipated to be performed from mid-March to July 2021, an engagement meeting is planned for June 2021, and the final report is projected to be completed in September 2021. An interim report providing an update on progress is planned for June 2021, and a final report with staff recommendations is anticipated to be presented to Council in November 2021.

For more information, please contact:

Donald Eta, Director of Transportation and Fleet Management Services

Attachments

1. Location Map of Napier Street and Stegman's Mill Road street network
2. Traffic Study preliminary work plan

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