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Sent: October 26, 2020 2:11 PM
To: Aurora Clerks General Inbox <Clerks@aurora.ca>; Aguila-Wong, Christine <caguila-wong@markham.ca>; clerks@newmarket.ca; EG Clerks General Inbox <clerks@eastgwillimbury.ca>; King Clerks General Inbox <clerks@king.ca>; Rachel Dillabough <rdillabough@georgina.ca>; Richmond Hill Clerks General Inbox <clerks@richmondhill.ca>; Vaughan Clerks General Inbox <clerks@vaughan.ca>; WS Clerks General Inbox <clerks@townofws.ca>
Subject: Regional Council Decision - Traffic Bylaw Amendments to Support Rapidways

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On October 22, 2020 Regional Council made the following decision:

1. Lane Designation Bylaw 2020-06, U-Turn Restrictions Bylaw 2018-06 and Turning Movement Restrictions Bylaw 2018-07 be amended to designate rapidway lanes for the exclusive use of bus rapid transit service and to designate bicycle lanes as outlined in this report.
2. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to Clerks of the local municipalities, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation and Chief of York Regional Police.
3. The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary bylaws.

The original staff report is attached for your information.

Please contact Joseph Petrungaro, Director Roads and Traffic Operations, at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75220 if you have any questions with respect to this matter.

Regards,

Christopher Raynor | Regional Clerk, Regional Clerk's Office, Corporate Services

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Our Mission: **Working together to serve our thriving communities – today and tomorrow**

The Regional Municipality of York

Committee of the Whole
Transportation Services
October 8, 2020

Report of the Commissioner of Transportation Services

Traffic Bylaw Amendments to Support Rapidways

1. Recommendations

1. Lane Designation Bylaw 2020-06, U-Turn Restrictions Bylaw 2018-06 and Turning Movement Restrictions Bylaw 2018-07 be amended to designate rapidway lanes for the exclusive use of bus rapid transit service and to designate bicycle lanes as outlined in this report.
2. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to Clerks of the local municipalities, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation and Chief of York Regional Police.
3. The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary bylaws.

2. Summary

This report seeks Council approval to amend the lane designation and turning movement bylaws to operate bus rapid transit service and designate bicycle lanes.

Key Points:

- Rapidway lanes need to be designated to allow exclusive use for bus rapid transit service in dedicated lanes to provide efficient service to travellers
- Amendments to turning movement bylaws are required to operate bus rapid transit service and address traffic operations
- Reserved bicycle lanes need to be designated for the exclusive use of bicycles to separate cyclists from motorists for safety

3. Background

Council approved construction of rapidways along Highway 7, Bathurst Street, Davis Drive and Yonge Street

Since 2015, completed rapidway sections along Highway 7, Bathurst Street, Davis Drive and Yonge Street have been approved and are in service as outlined in Attachment 1.

Yonge Street is the final budget-approved rapidway to be completed and in operation by the end of 2020

York Region Rapid Transit Corporation construction schedules indicate the section of bus rapid transit project on Yonge Street from Highway 7 to 19th Avenue/Gamble Road in the City of Richmond Hill is anticipated to be completed and in operation by the end of this year. Bylaw amendments are required to allow exclusive use for bus rapid transit service and designate bicycle lanes.

Council has authority to pass bylaws to designate lanes for the exclusive use of rapid transit, cycling and for traffic operations

The *Municipal Act, 2001* (Ontario) provides Council with the authority to designate lanes for the exclusive use of bus rapid transit service and for the exclusive use of bicycles to address traffic operations on Regional roads. Under this authority, Council has passed Lane Designation Bylaw 2020-06, U-Turn Restrictions Bylaw 2018-06 and Turning Movement Restrictions Bylaw 2018-07. Amending these bylaws will promote safe and efficient operation of the rapidways and are enforceable in accordance with the *Highway Traffic Act*.

4. Analysis

The Yonge Street rapidway needs to be designated to allow exclusive use for bus rapid transit service in dedicated lanes

Bus rapid transit service operates in exclusive dedicated lanes to provide efficient transit service to travellers. The intent of the designated lanes is to improve the person-moving capacity on Regional corridors by providing more reliable and frequent service. Amending the Lane Designation Bylaw will restrict the use of the rapidways to certain vehicle class types ensuring the rapidway is exclusively designated for bus rapid transit vehicles. Provisions for use by emergency service vehicles responding to calls as well as maintenance vehicles are included in the bylaw. The Yonge Street rapidway is the last remaining rapidway in the current provincial and Regional funding envelopes to be designated to allow exclusive use for bus rapid transit service in dedicated lanes. Council previously amended the Lane Designation Bylaw for all constructed operational rapidways.

Regional road sections scheduled for implementation of rapidway lane designation are outlined in Table 1. Yonge Street south of Elgin Mills Road is under the jurisdiction of the City of Richmond Hill. This section requires designation by the City.

Table 1
Regional Roads to be Designated for Rapidways

Portion of Highway	Limit	Vehicle Class	Times and Days
Yonge Street (Y.R. 1) Full rapidway located in the centre lane City of Richmond Hill	From 60 metres north of the north limit of Garden Avenue to the south limit of Major Mackenzie Drive East (Y.R. 25) (northbound direction), and from 50 metres south of the south limit of Major Mackenzie Drive West (Y.R. 25) to north limit of Garden Avenue (southbound direction)	Rapid Transit buses Emergency Service Vehicles Maintenance Vehicles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective October 22, 2020
Yonge Street (Y.R. 1) Full rapidway located in the centre lane City of Richmond Hill	From the north limit of Elgin Mills Road East (Y.R. 49) to 222 metres north of the north limit of Gamble Road/19 th Avenue (Y.R. 29) (northbound direction), and 227 metres north of the north limit of Gamble Road/19 th Avenue (Y.R. 29) to the north limit of Elgin Mills Road West (Y.R. 49) (southbound direction)	Rapid Transit buses Emergency Service Vehicles Maintenance Vehicles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective October 22, 2020

Turning movement amendments are required on the rapidways to address traffic operations

Due to property constraints, amendments to the turning movement bylaws are required to restrict motorists from making both northbound left turns and U-turns on Yonge Street at High Tech Road and southbound left turns and U-turns on Yonge Street at Hopkins Street. These turn restrictions will address traffic operations where left turn lanes are absent. The required restrictions are shown in Attachment 2.

As part of the initial design for Highway 7 (H2West) and Bruce Street, an eastbound exclusive left turn lane could not be constructed due to property constraints, resulting in the need for an eastbound left turn restriction. On November 7, 2019, Council approved an eastbound left turn restriction to prohibit motorists from turning left from the through lane, avoiding conflicts with transit in the rapidway. As the design evolved, the rapidway has been pushed east of the intersection which has created sufficient space for the construction of an eastbound left turn lane. The eastbound left turn restriction is no longer required.

Table 2 introduces four new turning restrictions and rescinds one, requiring amendments to turning movement bylaws.

Table 2
Required Turning Movement Amendments

Intersection	Restriction	Times or Days	Rationale
Yonge Street (Y.R. 1) at High Tech Road	No left turn in northbound direction	24 hours, 7 days a week	property constraints
City of Richmond Hill	No U-turn in northbound direction		
Yonge Street (Y.R. 1) at Hopkins Street	No left turn in southbound direction	24 hours, 7 days a week	property constraints
City of Richmond Hill	No left turn in southbound direction		
Highway 7 (Y.R. 7) at Bruce Street	Rescind left turn restriction in eastbound direction	24 hours, 7 days a week	restriction no longer necessary
City of Vaughan			

The rapidways support active transportation with designated bike lanes for the exclusive use of cyclists

The construction of on-street bike lanes supports a Region-wide active transportation network integrated with local municipal pedestrian and cycling infrastructure and transit (Figure 1). These lanes are reserved exclusively for the use of bicycles. The rapidways include bicycle lanes delineated from motor vehicle lanes by either pavement markings or physical separation. Amending the Lane Designation Bylaw will restrict the use of these bicycle lanes to the exclusive use of bicycles and improve safety and comfort for cyclists.

Figure 1
Cycling Lanes on Highway 7 at West Beaver Creek/Commerce Valley Drive



The sections of Regional roads to be designated as bicycle lanes are shown in Table 3.

Table 3
Designated Bicycle Lanes

Project	Portion of Highway	Limit	Vehicle Class	Times and Days
Y2.1	Yonge Street (Y.R. 1) Curbside lane City of Richmond Hill	From 141 metres south of Garden Avenue to Mackenzie Drive East (Y.R. 25) (northbound direction), and from Mackenzie Drive West (Y.R. 25) to 123 metres south of Garden Avenue (southbound direction)	Bicycles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective October 22, 2020
Y2.2	Yonge Street (Y.R. 1) Adjacent to curbside lane City of Richmond Hill	From Elgin Mills Road East (Y.R. 49) to 170 metres north of Gamble Road/19 th Avenue (northbound direction), and from 70 metres north of Gamble Road/19 th Avenue to Elgin Mills Road West (Y.R. 49) (southbound direction)	Bicycles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective October 22, 2020

Project	Portion of Highway	Limit	Vehicle Class	Times and Days
Y3.2	Yonge Street (Y.R. 1) Adjacent to curbside lane Town of Newmarket	From the north limit of Sawmill Valley Drive to Davis Drive (Y.R. 31) (northbound direction), and from 55 metres north of Davis Drive (Y.R. 31) to Savage Road North (southbound direction)	Bicycles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective October 22, 2020
H3	Highway 7 (Y.R. 7) Curbside lane City of Markham and City of Richmond Hill	From west limit of Town Centre Boulevard/South Town Centre Boulevard to east limit of Chalmers Road/South Park Road (both eastbound and westbound directions)	Bicycles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective October 22, 2020
H2VMC	Highway 7 (Y.R. 7) Curbside lane City of Vaughan	From Bowes Road/Baldwin Avenue to Edgeley Street/Interchange Way (westbound direction), and from Edgeley Street/Interchange Way to 45 metres east of Bowes Road/Baldwin Avenue (eastbound direction)	Bicycles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective October 22, 2020
H2EW	Highway 7 (Y.R. 7) Curbside lane City of Vaughan	From Edgeley Street/Interchange Way to Commerce Street (both eastbound and westbound directions)	Bicycles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective October 22, 2020
H2EW	Highway 7 (Y.R. 7) Adjacent to curbside lane City of Vaughan	From Commerce Street to Applewood Crescent (both eastbound and westbound directions)	Bicycles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective October 22, 2020
H2EW	Highway 7 (Y.R. 7) Adjacent to curbside lane City of Vaughan	From Famous Avenue to Bruce Street (westbound direction), and from 75 metres east of Bruce Street to Famous Avenue (eastbound direction)	Bicycles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective October 22, 2020

Project	Portion of Highway	Limit	Vehicle Class	Times and Days
H2EW	Centre Street (Y.R 71) Adjacent to curbside lane City of Vaughan	From Bathurst Street (Y.R. 38) to Dufferin Street (Y.R. 53) (both eastbound and westbound directions)	Bicycles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective October 22, 2020
H2EW	Bathurst Street (Y.R. 38) Adjacent to curbside lane City of Vaughan	From Centre Street (Y.R. 71) to Flamingo Road/Worth Boulevard (both northbound and southbound directions)	Bicycles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective October 22, 2020
H2EW	Bathurst Street (Y.R. 38) Curbside lane City of Richmond Hill	From Bathurst Street Connector Road to 135 metres north of Bathurst Street Connector Road (northbound direction), and 96 metres north of Bathurst Street Connector Road to Bathurst Street Connector Road (southbound direction)	Bicycles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective October 22, 2020

5. Financial

There are no cost implications to amend the lane designation and turning movement bylaws. Costs to install the signage for implementation of the dedicated lanes and turn restrictions referenced are included in the approved York Region Rapid Transit Corporation project budget funded by Metrolinx.

6. Local Impact

Local municipal staff has been informed of the recommendations contained in this report. Travellers will be provided with multi-modal travel options and improved bus rapid transit service offering more sustainable transportation options, including a more connected and efficient transportation network.

7. Conclusion

As construction of the funded bus rapid transit project on Yonge Street in the City of Richmond Hill nears completion, it is necessary to implement lane designations to operate transit along the rapidway corridor. Amendments to turning movement bylaws are required to operate bus rapid transit service and address traffic operations. Reserved bicycle lanes need to be designated for the exclusive use of bicycles to separate cyclists from motorists for safety.

The Regional Solicitor is required to amend the schedules to the bylaws governing lane designations and turning movement restrictions. The Regional Clerk to notify the local municipalities, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation and York Regional Police of the amendments.

For more information on this report, please contact Joseph Petrungaro, Director Roads and Traffic Operations, at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75220. Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.

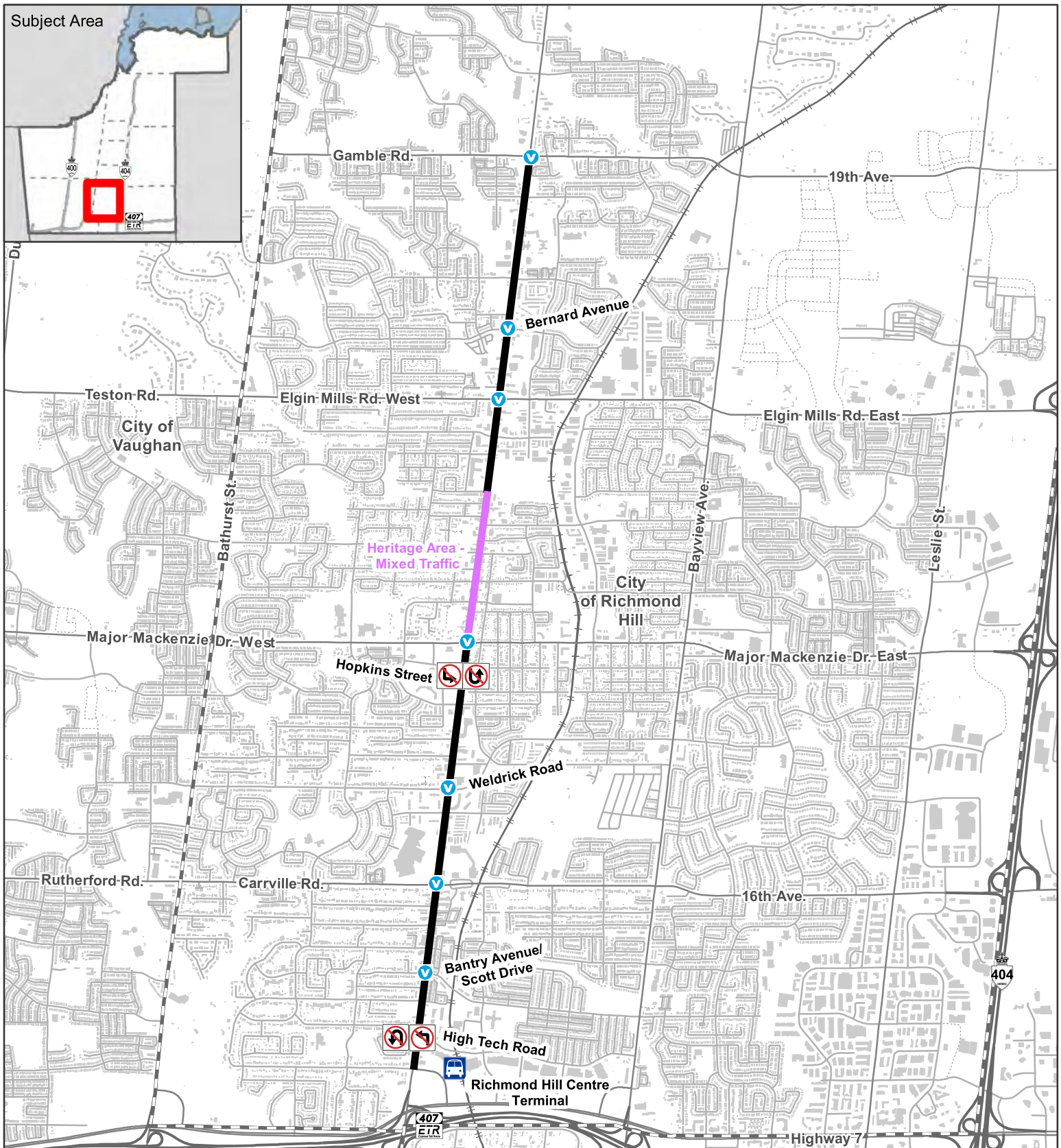
Recommended by: **Paul Jankowski**
Commissioner of Transportation Services

Approved for Submission: **Bruce Macgregor**
Chief Administrative Officer

September 18, 2020
Attachments (2)
11040222

Table 1
Completed Rapidways

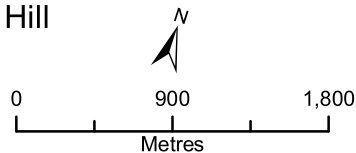
Rapidway	Portion of Highway	Status
H3 Rapidway City of Markham, City of Richmond Hill Clause 5, Report 13 - September 24, 2015	Highway 7 from Bayview Avenue to Warden Avenue	Opened January 2015
D1 Rapidway Town of Newmarket Clause 5, Report 13 - September 24, 2015	Davis Drive from Yonge Street to Roxborough Road/Patterson Street	Opened November 2015
H2VMC Rapidway City of Vaughan Clause 6, Report 6 - April 20, 2017	Highway 7 West from Edgeley Boulevard to Bowes Road/Baldwin Avenue	Opened December 2017
H2WE Rapidway City of Vaughan November 7, 2019	Highway 7 from Vaughan Metropolitan Centre to Bruce Street	Opened November 2019
H2WE Rapidway City of Richmond Hill, City of Vaughan November 7, 2019	Bathurst Street from Highway 7 to Centre Street, Centre Street from Bathurst Street to Highway 7	Opened January 2020
Y3.2 Rapidway Town of Newmarket November 7, 2019	Yonge Street from Savage Road/Sawmill Valley Drive to Davis Drive	Opened January 2020



Yonge Street Rapidway (Y2.1 & Y2.2)

Traffic Bylaw Amendments to Support Rapidways In the City of Richmond Hill

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Roads & Traffic Operations, Transportation Services
October 8, 2020
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Legend

- Rapid Transit Lane Designation
- Vivastation
- Mixed Traffic Transit Service
- NO U-TURN
- NO LEFT-TURN