

Dear Councillors,

I would like to draw your attention to a traffic problem at the intersection of Highway 7 and Markham Road (Main Street, Markham). Since this intersection is located at a point where Ward 7, 5 and 4 meet, it becomes an issue that affects all residents in the wards.

This particular problem relates to vehicles travelling south on Main Street crossing over Highway 7 at the intersection in front of Pizza Pizza restaurant. It occurs mainly during morning rush hours between 7:30am to 9:00am in weekdays.

There are three south bound lanes at the traffic light in front of the Pizza Pizza Restaurant. They are the Left Turn only lane, South Bound only lane, and the Right Turn only lane. The Right Turn only lane is painted with right turn arrows on the ground indicating right turn only. However, I have observed for many years that there are a lot of drivers, who decided not to wait at the end of the South Bound only lane, would line up on the Right Turn only lane at red light. When the traffic light turns green, these vehicles often ignore the Right Turn only rule and dash south across Highway 7. It is a very dangerous and illegal maneuver and also risking a collision with the vehicles in front of the Esso gas station waiting to turn right onto Markham Road.

I have raised my concern by writing to the Town prior to the opening of the Markham By-Pass last year. Nonetheless, the situation persists and only a handful of times have I seen York Regional Police ticketing the violators for the past 12 to 18 months.

Since enforcing the law doesn't seem to work very well to those who choose not to obey the law, I would like to suggest some correction measures for the Town's consideration. They are:

1. Erect "Right Turn Only Lane" steel signs on posts within 200 meter north of Pizza Pizza Restaurant.
2. Install new traffic signal with right turn only arrow facing the south bound traffic on Main Street, Markham.
3. Request the presence of York Regional Police Traffic Unit to enforce the regulations at frequent intervals during morning rush hour for at least a month.
4. Request the presence of York Regional Police Traffic Unit officers in front of Pizza Pizza Restaurant to act as visual deterrence to drivers from travelling south illegally on the Right Turn lane.
5. Repaint the lane dividing white lines. Paint the word "Right Turn Only Lane" and the right turn arrows on the ground with fresh paint.
6. Extend the traffic light timing for south bound traffic on Markham Main Street during the morning rush hours. (This must also be done together with No. 7 below.)
7. Extend the south bound traffic light cycle at James Scott Road and Markham Road intersection to allow more traffic flow onto 407 West. This may alleviate the traffic grid lock at Highway 7 intersection to its north.

Thank you for your kind attention.

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(Ward 7)

c.c. Jack Heath, Logan Kanapathi, John Webster, Carolina Moretti,.