



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Steeles Avenue West and Gihon Spring Drive/Leisure World Driveway – Traffic Control Signals

Date:	January 27, 2012
To:	Etobicoke York Community Council
From:	Acting Director, Transportation Services - Etobicoke York District
Wards:	Ward 1 – Etobicoke North
Reference Number:	p:\2012\Cluster B\TRA\EtobicokeYork\eycc120025-to

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide the results of a Traffic Control Signal Warrant study at the intersection of Steeles Avenue West and Gihon Spring Drive/Leisure World driveway.

The installation of traffic control signals is not recommended at this time as the Warrant requirements are only 40% achieved and no cost-sharing agreement between the City and the Region of York or the developer of the adjacent lands could be secured as of the date of this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that Etobicoke York Community Council recommend that City Council:

1. Not approve the installation of traffic control signals at the intersection of Steeles Avenue West and Gihon Spring Drive/Leisure World driveway as the Traffic Control Signal Warrant is not achieved.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact associated with this report. However, the financial cost of installing these new traffic control signals would be approximately \$220,000.00 should the installation be approved.

DECISION HISTORY

Etobicoke York Community Council, at its meeting of May 25, 2010, adopted without amendment, item EY37.39, a memo from the former Ward Councillor titled "Request for Traffic Control Signals at Gihon Spring Drive and Steeles Avenue West". The specific recommendation adopted by Community Council was "the Director, Transportation Services, Etobicoke York District to undertake preliminary discussions with the Region of York with respect to a cost sharing agreement with the Region of York for the installation of semi-actuated detector traffic control signals at Gihon Spring Road and Steeles Avenue West, and report to the Community Council on the outcome of the discussions".

Etobicoke York Community Council, at its meeting of September 12, 2011 deferred Item EY9.31, a report from Staff, to the November meeting of Community Council. This report recommended that traffic control signals not be installed at the subject location as a result of failing to meet the Warrant criteria and that no cost-sharing agreement between the City and the Region of York could be secured to finance signal installation at that time. At Council's meeting of November 2, 2011, Staff's report (now Item 11.18) was referred back to the Acting Director, Transportation Services, Etobicoke York District for further consideration.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Prior to the construction of the Leisure World long-term care facility in 2003, as part of a memorandum to the developer (Metrus Development Inc.), Transportation Services staff indicated that the installation of traffic control signals at Steeles Avenue West and Gihon Spring Drive/Leisure World driveway would be required with the development of the lands to the east of the Leisure World long-term care facility. This was provided that an agreement, satisfactory to the City Solicitor and Transportation Services is entered into with the City of Toronto; stating all cost associated with signalling the intersection of Gihon Spring Drive and Steeles Avenue West are the developer's responsibility. However, the lands to the east of Leisure World long-term care facility have not yet been developed, and therefore, the agreement to fund the cost of the signals at this location has not been entered into with the City of Toronto. At this time, we are not aware of any development proposals on this property.

As a result of the direction of Community Council in decision EY37.39, staff from the City of Toronto, Transportation Services met with staff from the Region of York to discuss the issue of traffic control signals at this intersection. Following these discussions, staff attended another meeting with the Councillor of Ward 1, Etobicoke North, the Region of York staff and staff from the City of Vaughan to again discuss the issue of installing traffic control signals at this intersection and a cost sharing arrangement. At this time, a response from the City of Vaughan staff on a cost sharing agreement for these signals has not been received. A map of the area is Attachment 1.

COMMENTS

Steeles Avenue West in the area of Gihon Spring Drive is a four lane major arterial road, with a posted 60 km/h speed limit. The intersection of Steeles Avenue West and Gihon Spring Drive is a four leg intersection with Gihon Spring Drive on the south approach and the only access to Leisure World long-term care facility making up the fourth leg. Leisure World long-term care facility is on the north side of Steeles Avenue West within the Region of York (City of Vaughan). Left turn lanes are provided for both eastbound and westbound movements at the intersection of Gihon Spring Drive.

Gihon Spring Drive is a local road that runs between Steeles Avenue West and Martin Grove Road. It has a legal speed limit of 40 km/h. Traffic control signals exist on Steeles Avenue West approximately 570 metres to the east of Gihon Spring Drive at Kipling Avenue and 520 meters to the west of Gihon Spring Drive at Martin Grove Road.

Recent speed studies on Steeles Avenue West in the area of Gihon Spring Drive revealed an 85th percentile speed of 69 km/h. The 85th percentile is the speed at or below which the majority of motorists feel comfortable travelling on the road.

To assess traffic conditions, turning movement counts were conducted using the peak eight hours. The results were applied to the traffic control signal Warrant analysis. The study results are as follows:

Thursday, March 24, 2010

- a) Minimum Vehicular Volume 39 percent
- b) Delay to Cross Traffic 37 percent
- c) Collision Experience 13 percent

Friday, October 21, 2011

- a) Minimum Vehicular Volume 40 percent
- b) Delay to Cross Traffic 37 percent
- c) Collision Experience 20 percent

In order to meet the Warrants, 100 percent compliance is required in one of the categories or a minimum of 80 percent in two categories for each day that a turning movement count was conducted. Given that the Warrant is not met, traffic control signals are not recommended.

A review of the Toronto Police Service collision records reveals three reportable collisions considered preventable by traffic control signals over the past three years that we have complete data, October 31, 2008 to October 30, 2011.

We received a letter from Toronto Police Service, dated November 2, 2011 expressing their support for traffic control signals and stating that 11 collisions have occurred in 2011 up to that time; however, the collision were not distinguished as to whether they are considered preventable with traffic control signals (i.e. right angle type collisions).

Since the latest minimum Warrant requirement is only 40% achieved and no cost-sharing agreement between the City and the Region of York or a developer of the adjacent lands could be secured, installation of traffic control signals at Steeles Avenue West and Gihon Spring Drive/Leisure World driveway is not recommended at this time.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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Acting Director, Transportation Services, Etobicoke York District

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Map