

Metrolinx GO Expansion: Permanent Closure of Steeles Avenue East Diversion Road

Date: June 4, 2021

To: Scarborough Community Council

From: Director, Transportation Planning and Capital Program
Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 22 - Scarborough-Agincourt

SUMMARY

As this report proposes permanently closing a portion of a public highway, City Council approval is required.

This report seeks Council approval to permanently close the Steeles Avenue East diversion road, between Redlea Avenue and Silver Star Boulevard. This diversion road is no longer required to facilitate Metrolinx's Steeles Avenue East Grade Separation project which is part of the GO Expansion Program (formally known as the Regional Express Rail Program).

Additionally, this report seeks Council approval to remove the temporary public highway dedication of the diversion road and to rescind the traffic by-laws enacted for this temporary diversion road.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director, Transportation Planning and Capital Program, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the permanent closure of the portions of the public highway known as Steeles Avenue East diversion road, between Redlea Avenue and Silver Star Boulevard, legally described in the draft by-law attached as Attachment 1 to this report, as of July 15, 2021.
2. City Council authorize the removal of the public highway designation for the portions of the public highway known as Steeles Avenue East diversion road, between Redlea Avenue and Silver Star Boulevard.

3. City Council enact a by-law substantially in the form of the draft by-law attached as Attachment 1 to this report.
4. City Council rescind, effective July 15, 2021, the existing 40 km/h speed limit, on the portions of the public highway known as Steeles Avenue East diversion road, between Redlea Avenue and Silver Star Boulevard.
5. City Council rescind, effective July 15, 2021, the existing stopping prohibition in effect at all times, on both sides of the portions of the public highway known as Steeles Avenue East diversion road, between Redlea Avenue and Silver Star Boulevard.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

All costs associated with the Steeles Avenue East Grade Separation ("Grade Separation") will be shared between the City at 15% and Metrolinx at 85% respectively in accordance with Council approved Agreement in Principle signed with the Province of Ontario.

Funding for the City's share is available within the 2021-2030 Capital Budget & Plan for Transportation Services.

DECISION HISTORY

City Council, at its meeting of July 16, 2019, approved the temporary closure of Steeles Avenue East, between Redlea Avenue and Silver Star Boulevard, to both pedestrian and vehicular traffic from September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2021, inclusive, for purposes of the grade separation construction. In its place, a diversion road was constructed and by-laws were enacted for the purpose of designating the diversion road as a public highway together with other resultant traffic by-laws. The Council decision can be found at:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.IE6.13>

On November 8, 2016, City Council approved a Summary Term Sheet that, in part, provided that Metrolinx and the City would share the costs (85% Metrolinx and 15% City) associated with 5 GO Regional Express Rail grade separations, including a grade separation at Steeles Avenue East. The Council decision can be found at:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.EX19.1>

COMMENTS

As part of Metrolinx's GO Expansion Program the train tracks on the GO Transit Stouffville line will be grade separated from Steeles Avenue East by constructing an underpass for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists passing under the train tracks. The grade separation, when completed, will improve safety, mobility and travel time of vehicular, pedestrian and cycling traffic on Steeles Avenue East.

In order to facilitate the construction of the grade separation, Steeles Avenue East, between Redlea Avenue and Silver Star Boulevard, was temporarily closed to both pedestrian and vehicular traffic on September 1, 2019. East and westbound vehicular traffic on this section of Steeles Avenue East was shifted to a temporary diversion road located to the north of the existing roadway (the "Temporary Highway Lands") and within the jurisdiction of the City of Markham and York Region. The City of Markham and York Region provided their consent to temporarily extend the City of Toronto's jurisdiction to the Temporary Highway Lands. Additionally, as part of IE6.13, Council also designated the Temporary Highway Lands as a public highway and traffic regulations were implemented via by-law to be in effect for the period of September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2021, inclusive.

Construction of the Steeles Avenue East grade separation will be moving onto its next phase and will no longer require the use of the Temporary Highway Lands. Pedestrian and vehicular traffic currently running along the Temporary Highway Lands will be rerouted back onto the original Steeles Avenue East alignment, under the newly constructed rail carrying bridge.

Since the construction of this phase of the grade separation has been completed ahead of schedule, staff are seeking to rescind the traffic regulations and public highway designation of the Temporary Highway Lands early, effective July 15, 2021.

The Ward Councillor has been advised of the recommendations in this report.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Ashley Curtis, Director

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Draft By-Law

CITY OF TORONTO

Bill

BY-LAW -2021

To permanently close certain lands located to the north side of Steeles Avenue East between Redlea Avenue and Silver Star Boulevard (the relocated Steeles Avenue East) for public highway purposes.

Whereas on May 28, 2020 the City of Toronto Council enacted By-Law 413-2020, to dedicate certain lands located to the north side of the current Steeles Avenue East between Redlea Avenue and Silver Star Boulevard (the relocated Steeles Avenue East) for temporary public highway purposes to form a diversion road; and

Whereas notice of the proposed by-law to permanently close the said highway for temporary diversion road on the north side of Steeles Avenue East was posted on the notices page of the City's web site in accordance with the requirements of City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 162 and the Scarborough Community Council heard any person who wished to speak to the matter at its meeting held on July __, 2021;

The Council of the City of Toronto enacts:

1. Certain lands described as follows:

PART OF PIN 02953-0165 (LT)
PART OF LOT 1, CONCESSION 5, GEOGRAPHIC TOWNSHIP OF YORK
DESIGNATED AS PARTS 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, PLAN
65R-38701
PART OF PIN 02953-0061 (LT)
PART OF LOT 1, CONCESSION 5, GEOGRAPHIC TOWNSHIP OF YORK
DESIGNATED AS PART 8, PLAN 65R-38701
PART OF PIN 02953-0164 (LT)
PART OF LOT 1, CONCESSION 5, GEOGRAPHIC TOWNSHIP OF YORK
DESIGNATED AS PARTS 3, 6, 10, 14 AND 21, PLAN 65R-38701
PART OF PIN 02953-0124 (LT)
PART OF LOT 1, CONCESSION 5, GEOGRAPHIC TOWNSHIP OF YORK
DESIGNATED AS PART 22, PLAN 65R-38701
PART OF PIN 02953-0159 (LT)
PART OF LOTS 22 AND 23, REGISTERED PLAN 2687
DESIGNATED AS PARTS 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 AND 28, PLAN 65R-38701
PART OF PIN 02953-0158 (LT)
PART OF LOTS 22 AND 23, REGISTERED PLAN 2687
DESIGNATED AS PARTS 29 AND 30, PLAN 65R-38701
PART OF PIN, 02953-0055 (LT)

PART OF ROAD WIDENING, REGISTERED PLAN 2687
DESIGNATED AS PARTS 31, PLAN 65R-38701
PART OF PIN 02953-0053 (LT)
PART OF TURFF AVENUE, REGISTERED PLAN 2687
DESIGNATED AS PARTS 32, PLAN 65R-38701
PART OF PIN 02953-0007 (LT)
PART OF LOT 1, CONCESSION 5, GEOGRAPHIC TOWNSHIP OF YORK
DESIGNATED AS PART 33, PLAN 65R-38701
PART OF PIN 02953-0008 (LT)
PART OF LOTS 1, 2 AND 3, REGISTERED PLAN 2687
DESIGNATED AS PART 34, PLAN 65R-38701
ALL OF PIN 02953-0070 (LT)
PART OF LOTS 1, 2 AND 3, REGISTERED PLAN 2687
DESIGNATED AS PART 35, PLAN 65R-38701
ALL OF PIN 02953-0069 (LT)
PART OF ROAD WIDENING, REGISTERED PLAN 2687
DESIGNATED AS PART 36, PLAN 65R-38701
PART OF PIN 02952-0001 (LT)
PART OF ROAD WIDENING, REGISTERED PLAN 2687
PART OF ROAD ALLOWANCE BETWEEN CONCESSIONS 5 AND 6,
GEOGRAPHIC TOWNSHIP OF YORK
DESIGNATED AS PART 37, PLAN 65R-38701
CITY OF MARKHAM, PROVINCE OF ONTARIO
LAND TITLES DIVISION OF YORK REGION (No 65)

are hereby closed for public highway purposes as part of Steeles Avenue East,
in the City of Markham.

Enacted and passed on , 2021.

Frances Nunziata,
Speaker

John D. Elvidge,
City Clerk

(Seal of the City)