



MEMORANDUM

TO: Committee of the Whole

FROM: Daniel Kostopoulos, Commissioner, Transportation Services

DATE: November 5, 2015

RE: Update on Recommendations Resulting from the Turn Restriction Request at Ninth Line and Berczy Gate, City of Markham

This is in response to Committee of the Whole's request for an update in November regarding initiatives to improve traffic flow in the Sherwood Amber-Glen community, in substitution to the request for a weekday 7:00-9:00 a.m. turn restriction at Ninth Line (Y.R.69) and Berczy Gate.

Background

Staff presented a report to Council in June of 2015, which did not support a northbound left-turn restriction at the intersection of Ninth Line and Berczy Gate. Committee of the Whole directed staff to implement specific initiatives to improve traffic flow in the Sherwood Amber-Glen Community to avoid the need for turning restrictions. To address the recommendations adopted by Regional Council, staff, in collaboration with City of Markham and York Region District School Board, implemented the specific initiatives listed in Table 1.

Table 1
Initiatives to Improve Traffic Flow

Initiative Requested	Results
Lengthening the advance left-turn signal at Highway 7 and Ninth Line.	Increased duration of the advance left-turn signal phase on July 10, 2015, at the intersection of Ninth Line and Highway 7 to provide a maximum of 20 seconds instead of 12 seconds.
Review of the intersection at Ninth Line and Church Street with consideration to provide a northbound advance left-turn signal combined with an advance straight-through movement.	Activated a northbound advance left-turn signal on July 15, 2015 at Ninth Line and Church Street.

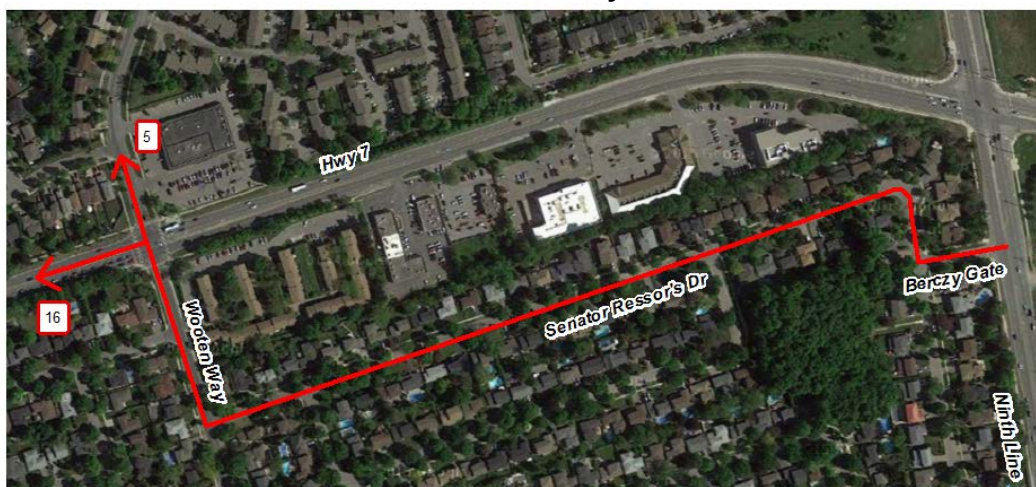
Initiative Requested	Results
Review of York Region Transit bus routes in the Southeast portion of the City of Markham in an effort to attract more students from Markham District High School to take the bus to school.	Extended Bus Route 411 - Markham District High School to provide service along Donald Cousens Parkway, Box Grove Bypass, Riverwalk Drive, Ninth Line and 14th Avenue. This will improve access to transit services for students commuting to/from Markham District High School. The route, as it was structured at the end of the 2015 school year, was well-used, carrying approximately 168 students daily.
Communication to students and parents at Markham District High School encouraging use of initiatives implemented to improve traffic flow in the community.	Asked York Region District School Board to inform Markham District High School parents and students of the newly-added bus stops and new advance northbound left-turn signal at Ninth Line and Church Street, to encourage increased use of transit and the Regional road network.

A final request was made by Committee of the Whole to monitor the effectiveness of the implemented initiatives and report back with findings in November 2015.

Results

A license plate trace (O-D) study was conducted during the first week of October 2015. The study found that during the 7:00-9:00 a.m. period, 21 vehicles use Berczy Gate/Senator Reesor's Drive as an alternate route, which is a 60 per cent reduction in comparison to the previous study completed in 2013. Figure 1 provides a visual of the results and study area.

Figure 1
Results and Study Area



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The mitigating measures implemented by the Region in collaboration with City of Markham and York Region District School Board, have had a positive impact on reducing cut-through traffic. We recognize that this study is based on a single day and traffic patterns change, therefore staff will continue to monitor.

Daniel Kostopoulos, P.Eng.
Commissioner, Transportation Services

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