

Clause No. 8 in Report No. 9 of Committee of the Whole was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting held on May 15, 2014.

8
REQUEST FOR ALL-WAY STOP CONTROL
KENNEDY ROAD AND HERALD ROAD
TOWN OF EAST GWILLIMBURY

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendations contained in the report dated April 15, 2014 from the Commissioner of Transportation and Community Planning:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The existing two-way stop control on Kennedy Road (Y.R. 3) at Herald Road in the Town of East Gwillimbury be changed to an all-way stop control.
2. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to the Clerk of the Town of East Gwillimbury and to the Chief of York Regional Police.
3. The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary bylaw.

2. PURPOSE

This report seeks Council authorization to enact an all-way stop control bylaw for the intersection of Kennedy Road and Herald Road in the Town of East Gwillimbury.

3. BACKGROUND

The Ontario Highway Traffic Act permits municipalities to implement all-way stop control

The installation of stop signs is governed by the Highway Traffic Act which stipulates in Section 137 (a) that the council of a municipality may, by bylaw, provide for the installation of stop signs at intersections on highways under its jurisdiction.

The intersection of Kennedy Road and Herald Road has been identified for intersection improvements

The Region routinely investigates the need to change traffic controls at various intersections throughout the Regional road network. Operational concerns have been identified at the intersection of Kennedy Road and Herald Road. It has been observed that motorists on Herald Road proceed through the intersection, violating the existing stop control. In addition, motorists on Kennedy Road stop when they are not required to do so. As such, staff initiated a review of the intersection to identify the correct traffic control needed and potential improvements.

The intersection of Kennedy Road and Herald Road currently operates as a two-way stop on Herald Road

The intersection of Kennedy Road and Herald Road is a three-leg intersection, as shown in *Attachment 1*. Herald Road is a two-lane, undivided rural roadway with a posted speed limit of 50 km/h, and Kennedy Road is a two-lane, undivided rural roadway with a posted speed limit of 70 km/h. The southbound approach to the intersection is comprised of a vertical upgrade of 6 per cent followed by a steep vertical downgrade of 17 per cent, with an advisory speed limit of 40 km/h. The intersection currently operates under a non-typical layout with a two-way stop control on Herald Road and free-flow conditions on Kennedy Road.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

The collision history identifies a pattern with single motor vehicle collisions

The 10-year collision history identifies 11 single motor vehicle collisions on Kennedy Road within the vertical downgrade section, involving southbound motorists approaching Herald Road. Factors which are likely contributing to vehicle collisions include the following:

- Low driver expectancy for the need to make a 90-degree turn at the T-intersection located at the bottom of the vertical grade
- Poor visibility of the intersection due to approaching elevation changes and non-typical traffic control
- Steep vertical grade on the southbound approach to the intersection

An independent peer review was conducted to assess operational concerns at the intersection

In addition to a staff review, an independent consultant was retained to analyze the Kennedy Road and Herald Road intersection, including the vertical grades on Kennedy Road. The overall objective of the study was to review the operations and identify treatments that will improve safety at the intersection.

The study found that as a result of this non-typical layout, in combination with higher traffic volumes along Herald Road, motorists may be having difficulty understanding who has the “right-of-way”. Several instances were observed in the field where eastbound or westbound motorists disobeyed the right-of-way, forcing the southbound vehicles to stop.

It is anticipated that an all-way stop control will improve traffic safety

The Ministry of Transportation of Ontario provides guidelines for municipalities to use for the implementation of an all-way stop control throughout the Province. These guidelines provide a series of warrants where traffic volume is measured against thresholds to determine the merit of an all-way stop location. This intersection does not satisfy the Provincial all-way stop criteria.

Although the intersection of Kennedy Road and Herald Road does not meet the Provincial criteria for an all-way stop control, it is still recommended as a means to increase intersection visibility and improve overall safety at this intersection. If endorsed, motorists will be notified of the stop control change with the use of on-street signs identifying the changeover date, which is in compliance with the Provincial all-way stop implementation process. In addition to the all-way stop, staff will install a flashing beacon to supplement the stop control.

Switching the existing two-way stop control from Herald Road to a one-way stop control on Kennedy Road was considered as an alternative but discarded

As the Provincial all-way stop criteria were not met for this intersection, the option of re-allocating the existing stop control to Kennedy Road was considered.

A traffic study conducted at this location identified that the predominant volume of traffic is found on Herald Road. As such, removing the stop control for the east/west directions may reduce turning opportunities for southbound vehicles, as they will have to wait longer for a gap to cross traffic. This may introduce vehicle queues on Kennedy Road. Given that the visibility of the intersection is limited due to the approaching grades, a greater potential for rear-end collisions could result. Therefore, implementing an all-way stop control is the preferred option.

Link to key Council-approved plans

This report supports the implementation of the Regional Official Plan and Transportation Master Plan which promote improved street networks.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs associated with installing the additional signage and flashing beacon in this location is approximately \$10,000, and is included in the 2014 Transportation and Community Planning Operating Budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Local municipal staff has been advised of the proposed changes within this report and they are in support of the change.

7. CONCLUSION

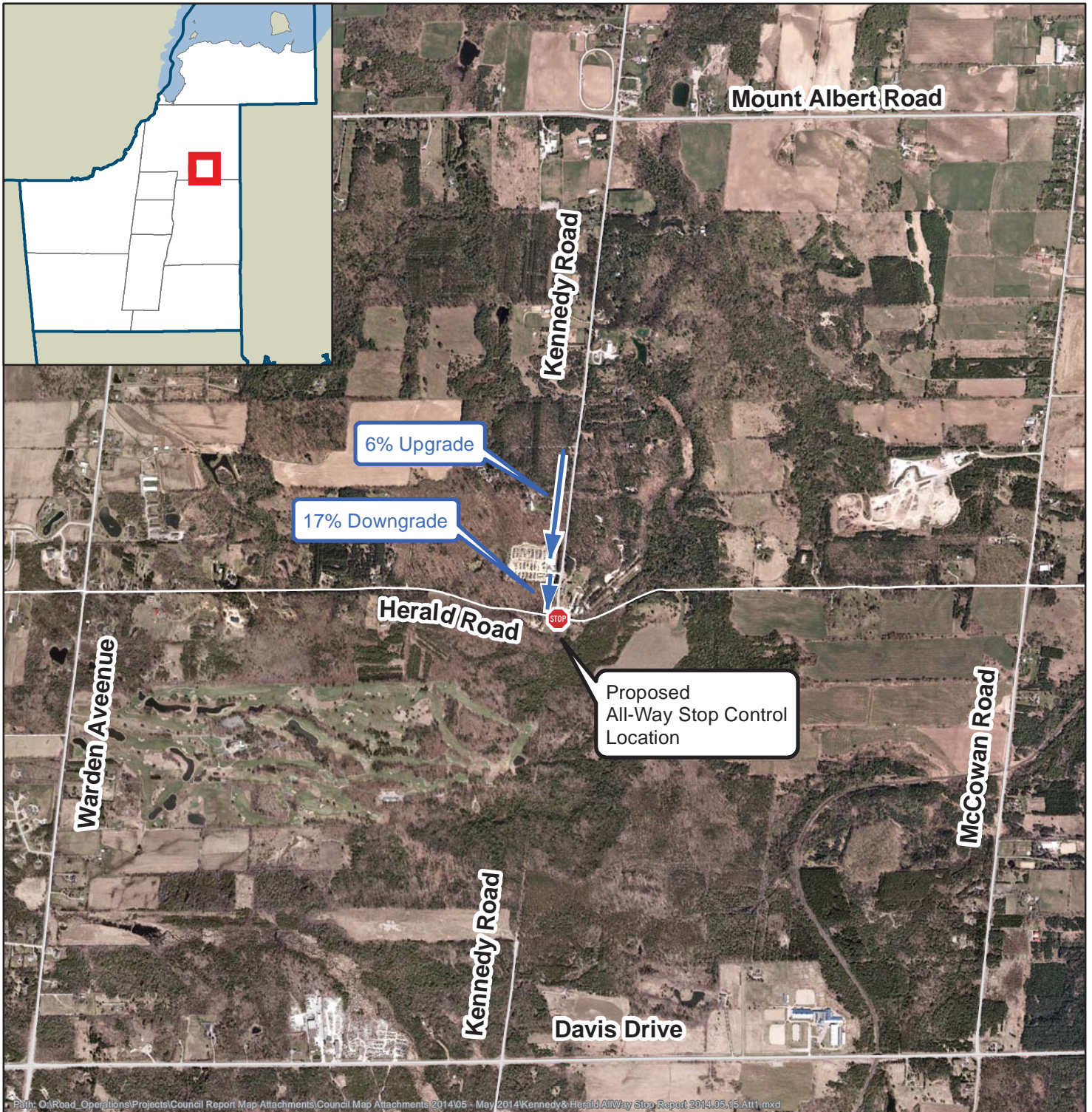
Based on the operational review, staff recommend all-way stop control be implemented at the intersection of Kennedy Road and Herald Road.

It is recommended that the Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary bylaw and the Regional Clerk circulate this report to the Town of East Gwillimbury and the Chief of York Regional Police.

For more information on this report, please contact Steven Kemp, Director, Traffic Management and Intelligent Transportation Systems at ext. 75226.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

Attachment (1)



Path: O:\Road_Operations\Projects\Council Report Map Attachments\Council Map Attachments 2014\05 - May 2014\Kennedy & Herald AllWay Stop Report 2014.05.15.Att1.mxd

Proposed All-Way Stop Location - Kennedy Road & Herald Road

Request for All-Way Stop Control
Kennedy Road and Herald Road
Town of East Gwillimbury
May 1, 2014



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