

Clause No. 8 in Report No. 3 of Committee of the Whole was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting held on February 20, 2014.

**8**  
**LOAD RESTRICTION REVISION**  
**MAJOR MACKENZIE DRIVE, CITY OF VAUGHAN**

**Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendations contained in the report dated January 23, 2014 from the Commissioner of Transportation and Community Planning:**

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that:

1. Bylaw No. R-1472-2007-086 to provide for restricted loads on Regional roads, be amended for Major Mackenzie Drive (Y.R. 25) to revise the limits set forth in column 2, to read “Highway 50 and Huntington Road, in the City of Vaughan”.
2. The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary bylaw.
3. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the Clerk of the City of Vaughan and to the Chief of York Regional Police.

**2. PURPOSE**

This report is to revise the existing Load Restriction Bylaw enacted for Major Mackenzie Drive between Highway 27 and Highway 50, in the City of Vaughan.

**3. BACKGROUND**

**Load restrictions protect pavement from damage by heavy commercial vehicles**

The purpose of a load restriction is to protect the pavement on designated sections of roadway from being damaged by heavy commercial vehicles and trailers. Restricting the weight of commercial vehicles mitigates the deterioration of the pavement condition until

such a time when the upgrading of these roads is deemed to be cost effective, prioritized and completed through the Roads Capital Program. Load restrictions are solely based on the structural design of a roadway and should not be confused with truck bans, which are intended to restrict truck travel on certain roads for planning reasons.

**Figure 1**  
“Load Restriction in Effect” Sign



In accordance with the *Ontario Traffic Manual Book 5*, the “Load Restriction in Effect” sign must be used on designated road sections to indicate that commercial motor vehicles or trailers are restricted from using the signed road without a permit. The restriction applies to any commercial vehicle or trailer that transmits more than five tonnes of weight to the highway with at least one of its axles. A standard “Load Restriction in Effect” sign, in accordance with the *Highway Traffic Act*, is shown in Figure 1.

### **The *Highway Traffic Act* authorizes municipalities to implement Load Restriction bylaws**

Under Section 122(7) of the *Highway Traffic Act*, the municipal corporation having jurisdiction over a highway may, by bylaw, designate the date on which a reduced load period shall start or end, and the highway or portion thereof, to which the designation applies.

### **Bylaw No. R-1472-2007-086 regulates load restrictions on the Regional road network**

On December 13, 2007, Council enacted Bylaw No. R-1472-2007-086 to provide for year-round restricted loads on certain Regional roads. It stated that the gross weight of commercial vehicles shall be restricted to five tonnes per axle with respect to certain road sections, including Major Mackenzie Drive between Highway 27 and Highway 50, as illustrated in *Attachment 1*. The bylaw also stated that it shall be in force until repealed or amended.

### **City of Vaughan Bylaw No. 284-94 identifies a load restriction on Huntington Road**

Huntington Road north and south of Major Mackenzie Drive is under the jurisdiction of the City of Vaughan. There is currently a full year load restriction in effect on these road sections.

## **4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS**

### **Major Mackenzie Drive West has been reconstructed to accommodate development in the Block 61 West Development Area in the City of Vaughan**

The Nashville Developers Group is developing a parcel of land situated on the north side of Major Mackenzie Drive, east of Huntington Road, in the City of Vaughan. These lands form part of the City of Vaughan's Block 61 West Development Area, and will consist primarily of residential development and some mixed-use commercial blocks.

As a result of this ongoing development, the section of Major Mackenzie Drive between Huntington Road and a point approximately 1,800 metres east thereof has been reconstructed, including the realignment and jog elimination at the intersection of Huntington Road and Major Mackenzie Drive. The reconstruction was completed by the developer to meet the Region's design standards, which provides the structural capacity required to accommodate heavy commercial vehicles. The remaining section of Major Mackenzie Drive to Highway 27 (approximately 700 metres), was reconstructed by the Region in 2006 to ensure safe vehicle operation along the vertical curve.

### **Developers working in the Block 61 West Development Area have a load exemption permit to access the work site**

The developers of the Block 61 West Development Area were required to obtain a permit from both the Region and the City of Vaughan to allow commercial vehicle operators exceeding five tonnes per axle to use Major Mackenzie Drive and Huntington Road. All commercial vehicle operators are required to carry a copy of the permit to qualify for the exemption.

The developer is using many sub-contractors and multiple vehicles to haul materials to and from the work site. As such, it has been challenging to ensure that each vehicle carries the load exemption permit. As a result, these commercial vehicle operators are routinely fined for load violations and are experiencing delays.

### **Removing the load restriction on Major Mackenzie Drive between Highway 27 and Huntington Road will minimize heavy loads on load-restricted roads**

City of Vaughan staff is in support of removing the load restriction on Major Mackenzie Drive between Highway 27 and Huntington Road, as this will reduce the amount heavy commercial vehicles and loading impact to Huntington Road.

### **Signs were recently installed to prevent heavy commercial vehicles from entering this area that are not destined for the Block 61 West Development**

With the load restriction removed, heavy commercial vehicles destined for Highway 50 may find they cannot continue beyond Huntington Road without violating the load restriction. To mitigate this situation, signage, as shown in Figure 2, has been installed on Highway 27 and Highway 50 north and south of Major Mackenzie Drive to inform heavy vehicle operators that a load restriction is in effect on Major Mackenzie Drive west of Huntington Road.

**Figure 2**  
Load Restriction Advisory Sign



### **Link to key Council-approved plans**

This report supports Vision 2051 which responds to the needs of our residents, promoting safety on York Region roads through effective policing, education and sensitive design.

### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The cost associated with removing the existing load restriction signs is included within the 2014 Transportation and Community Planning Budget.

### **6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT**

The load restriction removal on Major Mackenzie Drive between Highway 27 and Huntington Road will help facilitate the ongoing development in the area by allowing unrestricted access to the development sites. In addition, the impact of heavy commercial vehicle use on Huntington Road will be reduced.

City of Vaughan staff has reviewed this report and are in support of removing the load restriction on Major Mackenzie Drive between Highway 27 and Huntington Road.

## **7. CONCLUSION**

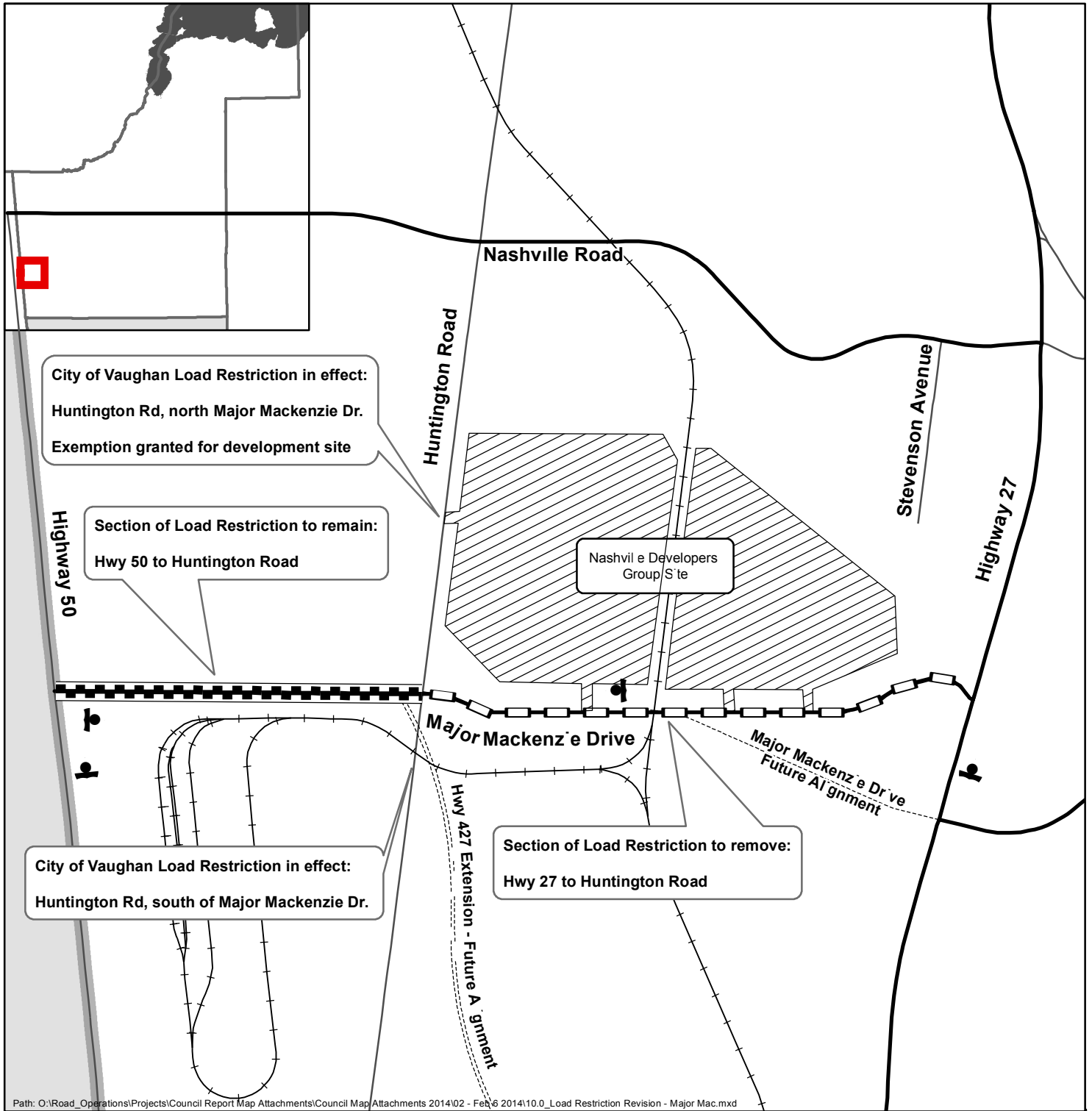
As a result of ongoing development in the area, the section of Major Mackenzie Drive between Highway 27 and Huntington Road has been reconstructed to meet the Region's design standards, which provides the structural capacity required to accommodate heavy commercial vehicles. As such, a load restriction on this section of road is no longer necessary.

Staff recommends that the load restriction on Major Mackenzie Drive be removed between Highway 27 and Huntington Road. The load restriction between Huntington Road and Highway 50 will continue to remain in effect.

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)*

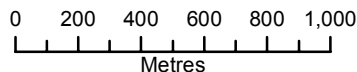


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**Load Restriction Revision  
Major Mackenzie Drive  
City of Vaughan**  
February 6, 2014



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**Legend**

- Load Restriction Advisory Sign 
- Proposed Regional Load Restriction Removal 
- Existing Regional Load Restriction to Remain 
- Regional Road 
- Proposed Road 
- Railway 
- Regional Boundary 