



Subject: Wellington Street and Yonge Street Intersection Left Turn
Restriction Pilot Project Evaluation

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Department: Planning and Development Services

Date: March 20, 2018

In accordance with the Procedure By-law, any Member of Council may request that this Information Report be placed on an upcoming General Committee or Council meeting agenda for discussion.

Executive Summary

This report presents to Council the findings of the Left Turn Restriction Pilot Project at the Wellington Street and Yonge Street intersection.

In Report No. IES16-059 – Pilot Project for Left Turn Restrictions at Yonge Street and Wellington Street Intersection, staff was directed to report back to Council following the completion of the pilot period.

At the request of the Town, the Region has implemented a pilot project to restrict the northbound and southbound left turn movements at the intersection of Wellington Street and Yonge Street. The key findings provided by the Region are summarized below:

- The pilot project was implemented between April 3, 2017 and June 2, 2017 during the AM (7 a.m. to 9 a.m.) and PM (4 p.m. to 6 p.m.) peak periods;
- There is no significant improvement to travel times, delay or queues resulting from the turn restrictions.
- York Regional Police provided occasional enforcement during the turning restrictions and their enforcement statistic showed there were low compliances.
- Resident's feedbacks in general were not in favour of the left-turn restrictions.

As a result, the Region recommends that the northbound and southbound left turn restrictions at the Wellington Street and Yonge Street intersection not be implemented.

Background

Council, at its meeting on June 28, 2016, adopted the following motion regarding the Pilot Project for Left Turn Restrictions at Yonge Street and Wellington Street Intersection:

THAT Report No. IES16-059 be received; and

THAT a left turn lane restriction pilot project be implemented at the Yonge Street and Wellington Street intersection, pending Regional Council approval; and,

THAT northbound and southbound left turn restrictions (buses excepted) be implemented by York Region on Yonge Street at Wellington Street between the hours of 7 a.m. to 9 a.m., and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday; and

THAT a public information session be included as part of the public engagement strategy; and

THAT staff report back to Council following the completion of the pilot period.

Analysis

The intersection of Yonge Street and Wellington Street is under the jurisdictional control of York Region. The Region has been reviewing possible mitigation measures to alleviate the level of traffic congestions caused by recent growth experienced within the Region. In addition, the existing geometrics at the intersection are constrained by the narrow right-of-way resulting in the absence of dedicated left turn lanes.

At the request of the Town, the Region has implemented a pilot project at the subject intersection to restrict both northbound and southbound left turn movements during the weekday AM and PM peak hours from April 3 to June 2, 2017. The pilot project was implemented to assess the impacts on the intersection operations, with a goal of improving traffic flow.

Based on the collected data, the Region concluded there was no observed advantage to alleviate traffic congestion, delay or queues resulting from the turning restrictions pilot project.

During the pilot project, the Town initiated mechanisms through a central email address (leftturnpilot@aurora.ca) and on the Town's Facebook page to collect feedback from

residents. A total of 41 respondents were received, including 24 or over 58% negative responses with only 8 or approximately 20% positive responses. The comments associated with the positive responses are mainly attributed to enforceability of the left turn restrictions, whereas the negative responses are concerned over the increase in traffic infiltration onto adjacent local streets, increase in overall travel times and the lack of enforcement. In addition, the neutral responses also expressed concern over limited enforcement during the left turn restrictions periods.

In addition, the Town is currently in the process of securing the required lands to construct a new southbound right turn lane at the subject intersection to improve overall traffic operations.

Advisory Committee Review

Not applicable.

Legal Considerations

None.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report, as the pilot project is being implemented and fully funded by the Region.

Communications Considerations

The left-hand turn pilot program was communicated extensively by Corporate Communications. As a result, Communications will close the loop by communicating the final decision regarding this program to residents via the Town website (News and Notices), Council Highlights, social media, Notice Board in the Auroran, and by eNewsletter.

Link to Strategic Plan

This report supports the Strategic Plan goal of Support an Exceptional Quality of Life for All by examining traffic patterns and identify potential solutions to improve movement and safety at key intersections in the community.

Alternative to the Recommendation

None.

Conclusions

York Region has implemented a pilot project to restrict the northbound and southbound left turn movements at the intersection of Wellington Street and Yonge Street during the AM (7 a.m. to 9 a.m.) and PM (4 p.m. to 6 p.m.) peak periods from April 3, 2017 to June 2, 2017. However, the pilot project findings indicated that there is no significant improvement to travel times, delay or queues resulting from the turn restrictions. York Regional Police (YRP) also provided occasional enforcement during the turning restrictions, and their enforcement statistic showed there were low compliances. In addition, resident's feedbacks in general were not in favour of the left-turn restriction.

The Region is exploring other options to improve traffic operations. One alternative is to implement exclusive left-turn lanes on all approaches to the intersection. This alternative would retain the opportunity to turn left from Yonge Street to Wellington Street at the intersection without impeding through traffic. However, some existing on-street parking spaces would need to be eliminated on Yonge Street and Wellington Street as turning lane tapers will be used to shift the travel lanes to accommodate the dedicated left-turn lanes.

Going forward, the Region will continue to monitor the intersection operation and update the signal timing plan as needed to ensure optimal performance.

Staff recommends that the northbound and southbound left turn restrictions at the Wellington Street and Yonge Street intersection not be implemented as concluded in the study undertaken by the Region.

Attachments

Attachment # 1: Left Turn Restrictions Pilot Project Area

Previous Reports

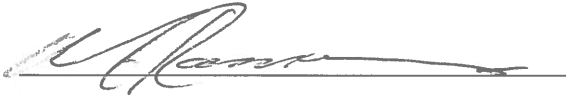
Report Number IES16-059, dated June 21, 2016.

Pre-submission Review

Agenda Management Team review on March 1, 2018

Departmental Approval

Approved for Agenda

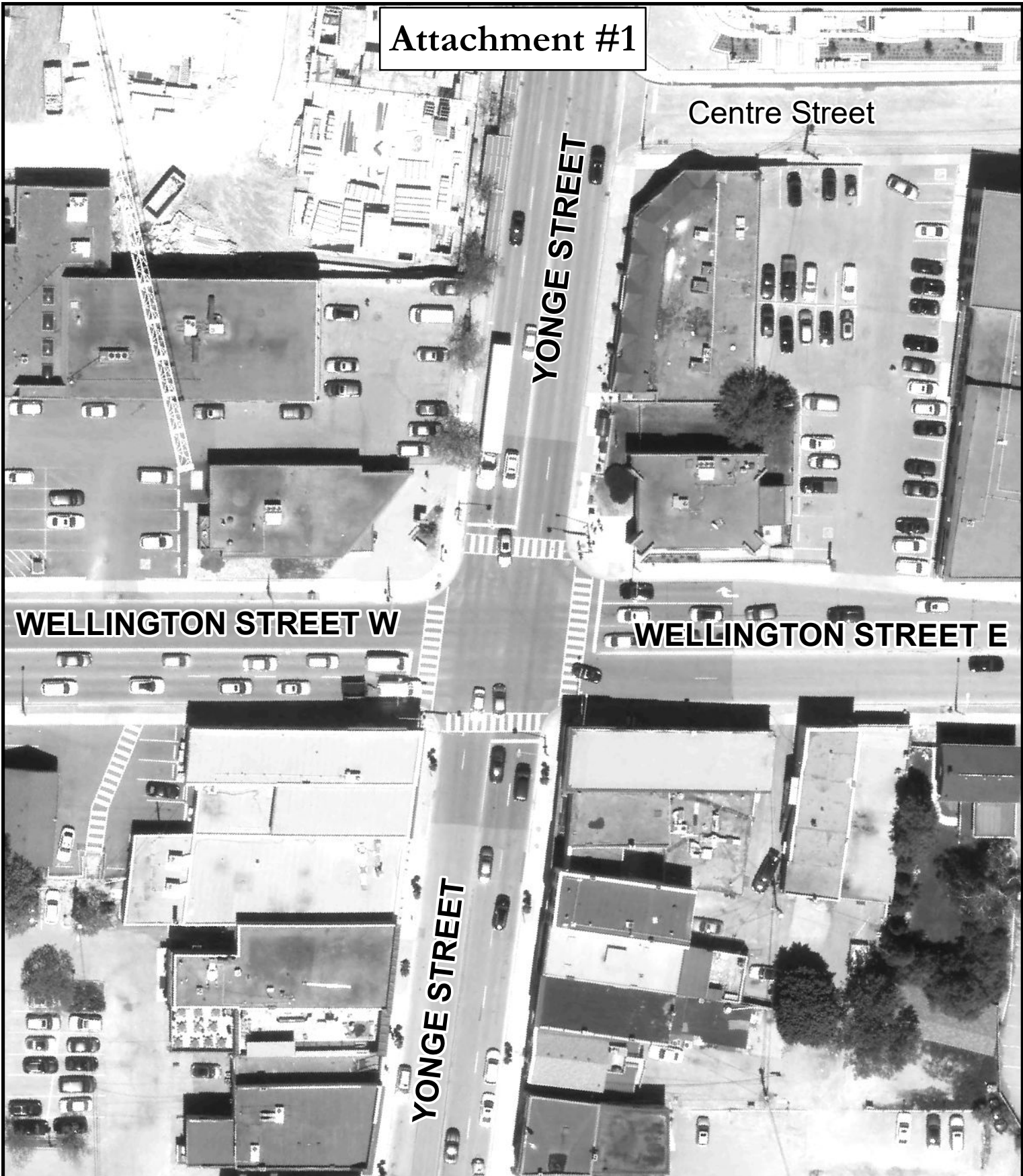


Marco Ramunno
Director
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Doug Nadorozny
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment #1

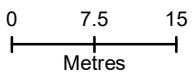


Centre Street

WELLINGTON STREET W

WELLINGTON STREET E

YONGE STREET



KEY PLAN

LEFT TURN RESTRICTIONS PILOT PROJECT AREA



PDS18-027