



Corporate Report

NO: C007

COUNCIL DATE: June 22, 2008

COUNCIL-IN-COMMITTEE

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: June 20, 2008
FROM: General Manager Engineering FILE: 5400-80(09950)
SUBJECT: Delegation Regarding Traffic Operations on 99A Avenue
between 154 and 156 Streets

RECOMMENDATION

The Engineering Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report as information; and
2. Authorize the City Clerk to forward a copy of this report and the related Council resolution to the delegation that appeared before Council-in-Committee regarding this matter.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to respond to the delegation to Council-in-Committee by Mr. Brian Fowler on March 31, 2008, during which he requested that a gate be installed across 99A Avenue at the westerly property line of the William F. Davidson Elementary School (as shown in Appendix I).

BACKGROUND

On March 31, 2008, Brian Fowler appeared as a delegation before Council regarding neighbourhood concerns with traffic on 99A Avenue between 154 and 156 Streets. The essence of the issue is that this section of 99A Avenue is constructed as a half-road, and to address the neighbourhood's concerns with traffic volumes on the street, to allow parallel parking for fronting residential properties and to provide reasonable access for both general purpose and emergency vehicles, the Traffic Operations Section restricted the use of this street to one-way traffic in a westbound direction. Some of the residents of the houses that front the south side of this section of 99A Avenue (including Mr. Fowler) are concerned that some motorists disobey this restriction, and by driving the wrong way, are creating a safety hazard.

The City undertook extensive but unsuccessful efforts to acquire the property along the north side of 99A Avenue to widen the road pavement in an effort to achieve two-way traffic and parking. However, the owners of the property to the north have not been willing to provide any property to the City for the widening of 99A Avenue in this section, stating that they want their land and frontage to remain unimproved until they are ready to develop the property.

A number of other options to address the resident concerns were assessed but no other solution has been supported by all affected parties. As a result, the delegation suggested that 99A Avenue be closed to through traffic by barricading the road at the westerly edge of the William F. Davidson School site until the road is widened to its ultimate cross-section.

DISCUSSION

The Parent Advisory Council of the William F. Davidson Elementary School (the school is located on the south side of 99A Avenue west of 156 Street) supports the current one-way operation of 99A Avenue as they hold the view that there has been a reduction in congestion, fewer cars parked illegally on the sidewalk and improved safety in the vicinity of the School. They do not support barricading 99A Avenue as requested by the delegation.

From staff's perspective, gating 99A Avenue as requested would eliminate it from serving its purpose as part of the local road network in the area (i.e., 99A Avenue is an important connection for emergency vehicles in the neighbourhood and severing this connection could increase emergency response times) and will create other traffic operational issues, especially for the pick-up and drop-off traffic to/from the School. All of the school traffic would need to be managed through the intersection of 99A Avenue and 156 Street, which is already operating at capacity during the peak hours (i.e., school drop-off and pick-up). Barricading 99A Avenue as requested would also likely result in motorists undertaking U-turns on 99A Avenue in front of the school with such turns encroaching onto the sidewalk. This would negatively affect student/pedestrian safety in the area.

The City has considered the merits of expropriating a widening to 99A Avenue along the north side and has determined that it will not proceed with such a course of action.

CONCLUSION

No option for the operation of 99A Avenue fully addresses all the concerns and needs of the fronting residents, the school and the broader community. City staff has actively pursued an agreement with the property owner to the north for the use of a strip of land adjacent to 99A Avenue to accommodate an interim road pavement widening that would allow two-way traffic operation and parallel parking on this section of street; however, the adjacent owner has not agreed to such a road widening nor has the City received any application for development of the property to date.

Gating of 99A Avenue as requested by the delegation is not supported based on the local road network needs, traffic operations considerations and motorist and pedestrian safety; particularly in front of the School. Based on balancing the various interests and needs, leaving 99A Avenue operating with one-way traffic in the westbound direction between 154 Street and 156 Street is considered to be the most reasonable alternative at this time.

Vincent Lalonde, P.Eng.
General Manager, Engineering

VL/JB/brb

Appendix I - Site Map

APPENDIX I AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF SITE



PRODUCED BY ENGINEERING, GIS SECTION: March 26, 2008, CS

Date of Aerial Photography: April 2007



99A AVENUE

ENGINEERING DEPT

The data provided is compiled from various sources and IS NOT warranted as to its accuracy or sufficiency by the City of Surrey.

This information is provided for information and convenience purposes only.

Lot sizes, Legal descriptions and encumbrances must be confirmed at the Land Title Office.

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