



Corporate Report

NO: R059

COUNCIL DATE: April 28, 2008

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **April 23, 2008**
FROM: **General Manager, Engineering** FILE: **3900-20 (13007)**
SUBJECT: **Amendment to Surrey Highway and Traffic By-law, 1997, No. 13007**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Engineering Department recommends that Council:

1. Approve an amendment to Surrey's Highway and Traffic By-law, 1997, No. 13007, which will allow the option of permitting reverse turns (U-Turns) at traffic signal-controlled intersections; and
2. Authorize the City Clerk to bring forward the necessary amendment By-law for the required readings.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council approval to amend the Highway and Traffic By-law to allow reverse turns (U-turns) at an intersection where there is a traffic control signal and where it is specifically permitted by a traffic control device (sign).

BACKGROUND

At some locations on the City's arterial (median-divided) road network, vehicular access to properties could be improved by allowing a U-turn at an appropriate signalized intersection where the road cross-section is such that this traffic movement can safely be made. This practice is utilized very effectively in a number of U.S. locations and in other Canadian cities.

DISCUSSION

The current Highway and Traffic By-law restricts reverse turns (U-turns) at any intersection where there is a traffic control signal. At some locations it would enhance accessibility to private properties without compromising motorist safety to allow U-turns at a signalized intersection. Permitted U-turns would be implemented at a very limited

number of locations where driver and pedestrian safety or traffic flow would not be compromised. Before implementation, the Engineering Department would conduct a comprehensive traffic safety and flow analysis to confirm that pedestrian and driver safety and traffic flow would not be negatively affected by the U-turn movement. One example where the implementation of U-turn movement may be possible is the signalized intersection of King George Highway and 26 Avenue. An aerial photograph of this intersection is attached as Appendix I.

Proposed By-law Amendment:

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Section 24 (2) (d) of Highway and Traffic By-law, 1997, No. 13007, be amended to read as follows:

“(d) at an intersection where a traffic control signal has been erected, **except as specifically permitted by a traffic control device, ...**”

CONCLUSION

To improve vehicular accessibility to properties along median-divided arterial and major collector roads in Surrey, it is proposed that the Surrey Highway and Traffic By-law, 1997, 13007, be amended to include a provision that would permit motorists to undertake a “U-turn” at certain signalized intersections where, by signage, such a turn is shown as being permitted.

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Appendix I - Photograph (aerial view of intersection)

APPENDIX I

