

NO: R208

COUNCIL DATE: October 4, 2010

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **September 28, 2010**

FROM: **General Manager, Engineering**

FILE: **1710-004-11**

SUBJECT: **Road Widening Project - 96 Avenue between 164 Street and 176 Street**

RECOMMENDATION

The Engineering Department recommends that Council receive this report as information.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide information about the status of the construction of the widening of 96 Avenue between 164 and 176 Streets and an intended extension to the 96 Avenue road closure period.

BACKGROUND

The City received funding from the Federal Infrastructure Stimulus Fund to cover one-third of the costs of widening 96 Avenue between 152 Street and 176 Street to a 4-lane divided pavement cross section (i.e., 2 lanes for traffic in each direction). One of the conditions that was attached to the federal funding was that the project must be completed by March 31, 2011. Due to the scope of the project, which involves a large quantity of work and the relatively short construction period with favourable weather conditions, a decision was made at the outset of the project to close 96 Avenue between 164 Street and 176 Street for an 8-week period to all but local traffic to accelerate the construction schedule. The section that was subject to the closure is illustrated on the map attached as Appendix I. The closure period is to expire on October 9, 2010.

DISCUSSION

The 8-week road closure period was intended to enable efficient construction of the two new west-bound (northerly) lanes on which two-way traffic would then be allowed while the two new east-bound (southerly) lanes are constructed. The road closure strategy has proved effective and the west-bound (northerly) lanes are nearing completion.

The full road closure has not generated any public complaints. The detour routes are operating well, with minimal delays or operational issues.

The residents of the properties that front the section of 96 Avenue that has been closed have submitted a petition requesting that the closure period be extended to allow the project to be completed more rapidly. At a project Open House held on September 22, 2010 this issue was raised by those in attendance, who all voiced strong support for extending the closure.

The contractors have indicated that if the current road closure were to remain in effect, the widening can be substantially completed and 96 Avenue re-opened to traffic with a full four-lane cross section by December 15th, 2010. This would be 2 1/2 months ahead of the original schedule for completion of the project. Weather conditions through the winter months are likely to slow down project completion. It is considered advantageous to complete the project as soon as possible; thereby ensuring that the federal funding available to the project is not compromised. In addition, we anticipate that extending the closure will avoid traffic impacts associated with planned utility pole relocations and water main tie-ins.

On this basis, staff is intending to approve an extension of the period of the full closure for 96 Avenue between 164 Street and 176 Street to the earlier of December 15th, 2010 or when the road construction component of the project is complete.

Vincent Lalonde, P.Eng.
General Manager, Engineering

VL/JB/KDZ/brb

Appendix I – Map of Location of Road Closure

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