



Office of the Commissioner
Transportation Services

Memorandum

To: Committee of the Whole

From: Paul Jankowski
Commissioner of Transportation Services

Date: December 18, 2017

Re: **Mount Albert Road and Centre Street
Proposed Traffic Control Signal Open House**

This memo is in response to Council's direction on September 21, 2017, to defer installation of a traffic control signal at the intersection of Mount Albert Road and Centre Street in the Town of East Gwillimbury and provide for further public engagement.

On November 27, 2017, York Region Transportation Services hosted an open house at the Ross Family Complex on Centre Street, in Mount Albert, between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. The purpose of the open house was to share information with the community about the proposed traffic control signal for the intersection of Mount Albert Road and Centre Street.

Staff produced a series of story boards which highlighted the results of the road safety review, showing the benefits and disadvantages of all traffic control options considered. A traffic control signal was presented as the preferred solution to address sight line concerns, improved accessibility for people with disabilities, countdown pedestrian signals and increased street lighting.

To promote the event, Canada Post delivered approximately 2,500 invitations to households in Mount Albert and the surrounding area. The event was also advertised in the local paper and through social media channels. The Town assisted with advertising using electronic message signs.

Of the 2,500 invitations delivered, approximately 120 residents attended the open house, which equates to a five per cent attendance rate. Approximately 59 comment cards were received. Results of the comment cards are illustrated in Table 1.

Table 1
Results from Comment Cards

Comments	Number of Comments
Support traffic control signal	11
Alternative location for traffic control signal	11
Alternative traffic control options	14
Safety concerns and further study	21
Increase enforcement and winter maintenance	2
Total comments received	59

More than 40 per cent, or 25 comments, were received preferring an alternative location for a traffic control signal or another form of traffic control, such as a roundabout, all-way stop or flashing beacon.

An operational review at the intersection of Mount Albert Road and Centre Street determined a traffic control signal as the appropriate solution to address limited sight distance concerns. The Ministry of Transportation of Ontario's traffic signal criteria supports traffic control signals when addressing visibility concerns.

Table 2 provides a sample of resident comments.

Table 2
Sample of Resident Comments

Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The traffic signal location should be reconsidered because of the new subdivisions• Relocate the traffic signal to Royal Oak Road, Alice Street, Don Rose Boulevard/King Street, Ninth Line• Traffic should not be stopped on the steep hill because vehicles may slide, especially during the winter time• Instead of adding a traffic signal, there should be a 3-way stop that allows eastbound traffic to flow• Preference for a roundabout at Centre Street and Mount Albert Road

Mount Albert Road and Centre Street
Proposed Traffic Signal Open House

Comments

- The intersection should remain unchanged
 - Add a sidewalk to the south side of Mount Albert Road
 - Add crosswalks and flashing pedestrian light at the intersection of Centre Street and Mount Albert Road
 - Close Centre Street, on the south side, from having access to Mount Albert Road
 - Safety issues on Mount Albert Road and Centre Street due to poor sightlines
 - Straighten Centre Street through Mount Albert Road
 - The current grading on Mount Albert Road and Centre Street needs to be reduced if a traffic signal were to be placed at that intersection
 - Difficult for vehicles to make a left turn onto Mount Albert Road due to the high volume of traffic
 - Agree with having traffic signals at Centre Street and Mount Albert Road
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Residents proposed supplementary solutions to a traffic control signal. One proposal was to install a sign with a flashing beacon to advise motorists when the traffic control signal indication will be changing to red. Another proposal was to reduce the number of traffic signal poles to make the design more aesthetic.

Applicable suggestions from residents have been incorporated into the traffic control signal design. The design also includes decorative black poles, fully accessible design (compliant with AODA), enhanced pedestrian crosswalks and a camera to monitor real time operations from our Roads and Traffic Operations Centre.

The traffic control signal design is complete. The contract will be awarded early in 2018 to facilitate construction in the spring of 2018.

In response to the other traffic concerns raised, staff is installing radar feedback boards along with additional speed limit signs. The community's request for increased speed enforcement has been forwarded to York Regional Police.

Paul Jankowski
Commissioner of Transportation Services

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