SUBJECT: Lane Designation Change on Dundas Street at Hamilton Street, Waterdown (PW06071) - (Ward 15)

RECOMMENDATION:

(a) That the eastbound curb lane on Dundas Street at Hamilton Street, Waterdown be designated for right turning traffic only.

(b) That the By-law outlined in Report PW06071 as Appendix “A” to amend the City of Hamilton Traffic By-law 01-215 be passed and enacted.

Scott Stewart, C.E.T.
General Manager
Public Works

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The eastbound curb lane on Dundas Street at Hamilton Street currently permits vehicles to either proceed straight through the intersection or turn right. This lane ends approximately 25 metres from the far side of the intersection. Most through traffic uses the left lane to avoid changing lanes on the far side of the intersection. Some drivers use the curb lane to get around traffic in the adjacent lane. This aggressive action can increase the potential for collisions and escalating aggressive behaviour. There is sufficient capacity in the middle lane to accommodate all eastbound through traffic.

Therefore, staff recommends that the eastbound curb lane on Dundas Street at Hamilton Street be designated for right turning traffic only.
BACKGROUND:

The information/recommendations contained within this report primarily affect Ward 15. Councillor McCarthy requested, on behalf of a Ward 15 constituent, that staff consider changing the designation of the eastbound curb lane on Dundas Street at Hamilton Street to permit only right turns. Currently this lane permits vehicles to either proceed straight through the intersection or turn right. This lane ends approximately 25 metres from the far side of the intersection and does not provide a sufficient distance for safe merging. Most through traffic uses the left lane to avoid changing lanes on the far side of the intersection. Some drivers use the curb lane to get ahead of traffic in the left lane and in doing so may be compelled to drive aggressively. This choice can increase delay and the potential for sideswipe collisions when this traffic must change lanes.

There has been one collision in the past three years that can be attributed to lane changing where the eastbound curb lane ends. Notwithstanding this low collision frequency, the recommended change will reduce potential conflicts by preventing drivers from using the curb lane on the far side of the intersection to get ahead of other eastbound traffic. It should be noted that the recommended change will not physically prevent drivers from using the curb lane to proceed through the intersection.

There is sufficient capacity in the left lane to handle the volume of eastbound through traffic.

Therefore, staff recommends that the eastbound curb lane on Dundas Street at Hamilton Street be designated for right turning traffic only.

ANALYSIS/RATIONALE:

The recommendation is consistent with strategies to address aggressive driver behaviour.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:

An alternative would be to take no action which would not address public safety. The current lane configuration enables aggressive behaviour by providing a means for those drivers to move ahead of traffic in the adjacent lane.

FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Sufficient funds are available in regular current accounts to cover the cost of erecting and maintaining the required signs and pavement markings.

POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:

The subject recommendation is not affected by any policies.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION:

This proposal was initiated and supported by Councillor McCarthy on behalf of a constituent of Ward 15. Internal consultation was carried out with Environmental Planning staff to determine if the recommended change will have any impact on the Waterdown Master Plan. The recommended change does not effectively change the
capacity of Dundas Street through Waterdown and therefore does not impact on the Waterdown Master Plan.

**CITY STRATEGIC COMMITMENT:**

By evaluating the “Triple Bottom Line”, (community, environment, economic implications) we can make choices that create value across all three bottom lines, moving us closer to our vision for a sustainable community, and Provincial interests.

Community Well-Being is enhanced. ☒ Yes ☐ No
Road safety is enhanced and the public was involved in the definition and development of local solutions.

Environmental Well-Being is enhanced. ☐ Yes ☒ No

Economic Well-Being is enhanced. ☐ Yes ☒ No

Does the option you are recommending create value across all three bottom lines? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Do the options you are recommending make Hamilton a City of choice for high performance public servants? ☐ Yes ☒ No
CITY OF HAMILTON

BY-LAW NO. 06-

To Amend By-law No. 01-215
Being a By-law To Regulate Traffic

WHEREAS Section 11(1)1 of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, Chapter 25, as amended, confers upon the councils of all municipalities the power to enact By-laws for regulating traffic on highways subject to the Highway Traffic Act;

AND WHEREAS on the 18th day of September, 2001, the Council of the City of Hamilton enacted By-law No. 01-215 to regulate traffic;

AND WHEREAS it is necessary to amend By-law No. 01-215.

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the City of Hamilton enacts as follows:

1. “Schedule 13 (Designated Traffic Lanes) of By-law No. 01-215, as amended, is hereby further amended by adding to Section "C" (Flamborough) thereof the following items, namely:

   “Dundas St. Howard Blvd. to curb lane Anytime Easterly to Southerly”

   Hamilton St.

2. Subject to the amendments made in this By-law, in all other respects, By-law No. 01-215, including all Schedules thereto, as amended, is hereby confirmed unchanged.

3. This By-law shall come into force and take effect on the date of its passing and enactment.

PASSED and ENACTED this day of , 2006.

_________________________________ ____________ ____________________
MAYOR      CLERK
PROPOSED
EASTBOUND RIGHT TURN LANE
HAMILTON STREET NORTH/SOUTH
AT
HIGHWAY NO. 5
CITY OF HAMILTON
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

LEGEND

SUBJECT INTERSECTION

SCALE
NOT TO SCALE
DATE
2006-05-30
REFERENCE FILE NO: PW06071