



Staff Report for Council Meeting

Date of Meeting: July 8, 2020

Report Number: SRPRS.20.043

Department: Planning and Regulatory Services
Division: Development Engineering & Transportation

Subject: SRPRS.20.043 – Regatta Avenue Parking Concerns

Purpose:

To respond to requests from local residents for parking restrictions on Regatta Avenue in the vicinity of Russell Tilt Community Park and the Dr. Bette Stephenson Centre for Learning.

Recommendation(s):

- a) That By-law No. 76-20 (Attachment 1 to Staff Report SRPRS.20.043) be enacted to amend Schedule "A" of the Parking Regulation By-law No. 402-89 (Municipal Code Chapter 1116) to prohibit parking on the south side of Regatta Avenue from Coons Road to Yonge Street.
- b) That By-law No. 77-20 (Attachment 2 to staff report SRPRS.20.043) be enacted to amend Schedule "A" of Municipal Code Chapter 1126 regarding speed restrictions within the City of Richmond Hill in order to restrict the speed limit on Regatta Avenue from Coons Road to Yonge Street to 40 km/h.
- c) That By-law No. 85-20 (Attachment 3 to staff report SRPRS.20.043) be enacted to amend Article "1" of Municipal Code Chapter 1030 regarding Community Safety Zones within the City of Richmond Hill in order to designate Regatta Avenue from Coons Road to Yonge Street as a Community Safety Zone with an effective time of 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.
- d) That York Regional Police be advised of the new reduced posted speed limit and Community Safety Zone designation and be requested to provide enforcement along Regatta Avenue as resources permit.

Contact Person:

Robert Cowie, Senior Traffic Analyst, 905-747-6455 and/or
Hubert Ng, Manager of Transportation, 905-747-6501

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Report Approval:

Submitted by: Kelvin Kwan, Commissioner of Planning and Regulatory Services

Approved by: Mary-Anne Dempster, City Manager

All reports are electronically reviewed and/or approved by the Division Director, Treasurer (as required), City Solicitor (as required), Commissioner and City Manager. Details of the reports approval are attached.

Background:

Staff have received requests from local residents for parking restrictions on Regatta Avenue in the vicinity of Russell Tilt Community Park and the Dr. Bette Stephenson Centre. The concern is that motorists are parking on both sides of Regatta Avenue that has resulted in insufficient pavement width to accommodate emergency vehicle access and two-way traffic flow. The reduced effective travel width of the roadway has also resulted in difficulty for residents to enter and exit their driveways on Regatta Avenue. Further, a speed limit reduction from the default 50 km/h to 40 km/h was also requested for staff's consideration for Regatta Avenue.

Regatta Avenue is a residential collector road (23 metre right-of-way) that extends from Yonge Street to Coons Road. It has a pavement width of 9.75 metres and there are sidewalks along both sides of the road. The posted speed limit is 50 km/h.

Regatta Avenue Study Area Map



Based on staff assessments, the findings suggest that programming at the Russell Tilt Community Park and the Dr. Bette Stephenson Centre for Learning has created demand for on-street parking along Regatta Avenue. The recently opened Oak Ridges Public Library adjacent to the Dr. Bette Stephenson Centre for Learning may also be contributing to the increased demand. While parking lots associated with these facilities are intended to accommodate this demand and there appears to be sufficient parking available, it is evident that some motorists find it more convenient to park on Regatta Avenue.

As a result, it is recommended that the on-street parking on Regatta Avenue be restricted on the south side in order to maintain two-way traffic flow and ensure that access for emergency services is maintained at all times.

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Restricting parking on the south side of Regatta Avenue can maintain on-street parking opportunities to continue to service parking demands from the facilities located north of Regatta Avenue. This configuration would also minimize any unnecessary pedestrian crossing activity on Regatta Avenue to enhance traffic safety and would also help to minimize operational and safety concerns at residential driveways.

No clear patterns for peak demand days or times were observed of the activity at the Russell Tilt Community Park and the Dr. Bette Stephenson Centre for Learning due to the dynamic nature of the facilities. Therefore, it is recommended that parking be prohibited at all times.

A notice (see Attachment 4 and 5) was circulated to all residences on Regatta Avenue advising of the proposed parking restriction along the south side. At the same time, residents were also advised that staff would be reviewing the posted speed limit to ensure that it is consistent with the current context and environment along Regatta Avenue.

A technical assessment of the speed limit was also carried out to ensure that it is consistent with the current local context and environment along Regatta Avenue. Staff referenced the methodology outlined in the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) Guidelines for Establishing Posted Speed Limits to determine an appropriate speed limit on Regatta Avenue.

The methodology provides an objective assessment based on engineering principles and was developed to enhance road safety through the provision of credible and appropriate posted speed limits that match the expectation of drivers for a given roadway and its surrounding area.

Staff determined the specific parameters for Regatta Avenue, including the road classification, function and physical characteristics as input to the technical assessment. Given that Regatta Avenue is a collector road with average traffic volumes of 3,600 veh/day and has sidewalks on both sides and does not exhibit any bends along the road, the assessment determined that the appropriate speed limit is 40 km/h. Therefore, it is recommended that the default speed limit of 50 km/h be reduced to 40km/h.

Included in the assessment was consideration to designating Regatta Avenue as a Community Safety Zone, as there is a park, school, and community facility along this stretch of road which services vulnerable users. The Council-approved Community Safety Zone Policy provides a procedure for implementation that includes warrants that have to be satisfied before a portion of road can be recommended as a Community Safety Zone.

The warrant analyses for a Community Safety Zone consists of two components, Warrant 1 – Designated Areas of Special Concern and Warrant 2 – Safety Warrant. In order to meet the minimum requirements both warrants need to be satisfied.

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Warrant 1 requires that the proposed Community Safety Zone be a location where special concerns related to public safety are obvious to the road user. Russell Tilt Community Park, Dr. Bette Stephenson Centre for Learning, and the Oak Ridges Library are located on Regatta and are considered as locations of special concern. Warrant 2 consists of eight key safety factors, such as the geometry and traffic operating characteristics, which are individually scored for the subject roadway. A minimum score of 15 points is required to satisfy this warrant.

A review by staff has confirmed that the requirements of Warrant 1 have been satisfied and that a score of 15 points has been achieved on Warrant 2. As both Warrant 1 and Warrant 2 have been fully satisfied, it is recommended that Regatta Avenue be designated as a Community Safety Zone (Attachment 6).

Further, the City has partnered with York Regional Police to maximize the effectiveness of Community Safety Zones. York Regional Police will be notified by staff once the Community Safety Zone has been implemented for any necessary traffic enforcement. The public will also be made aware that all fines are doubled for any traffic violations that occur within a designated Community Safety Zone.

As part of the resident engagement process, some feedback was related to the need for traffic calming. It is noted that the recommendation to restrict on-street parking to one side of Regatta Avenue may not be considered a passive traffic calming treatment. However, by restricting on-street parking to one side it will distribute on-street parking over a greater length of Regatta Avenue and thus provide the benefits of side friction to a greater proportion of residents. Passive modifications are intended to visually reduce the effective lane width for a motorist and re-allocate some of road space to cyclists and on-street parking. As such, passive traffic calming treatments have proven to be capable of reducing 85th percentile operating speeds as the narrow travel lanes increases side friction to traffic flow.

Upon implementation of the recommended parking prohibition, speed limit reduction and Community Safety Zone designation, staff will continue to monitor Regatta Avenue in order to determine the level of effectiveness of the above noted measures.

Financial/Staffing/Other Implications:

The cost to install the parking prohibition, speed limit reduction signage and signage for the Community Safety Zone is estimated to be approximately \$4,400.00. There is a provision in the Community Services Department's Maintenance and Operations Budget to accommodate this work.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan:

The recommendation is consistent with the Strategic Plan's Objective of "developing the road network to improve mobility and movement" and to "enhance community safety".

The recommendation of this report is consistent with the City's Strategic Plan to

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"enhance community safety". It also demonstrates responsible municipal management of the City's road network.

Conclusion:

Staff have investigated a request from residents of Regatta Avenue for parking restrictions in the vicinity of Russell Tilt Community Park, the Dr. Bette Stephenson Centre for Learning, and the Oak Ridges Library. Following a field investigation, staff recommend that on-street parking be prohibited along the south side of Regatta Avenue to ensure two-way traffic flow and access for emergency services is maintained at all times. In addition, staff are recommending that the posted speed limit along Regatta Avenue between Coons Road and Yonge Street be reduced from 50 km/h to 40 km/h and that Regatta Avenue be designated as a Community Safety Zone.

Attachments:

The following attached documents may include scanned images of appendixes, maps and photographs. If you require an alternative format, please call the contact person listed in this document.

- Attachment 1: Proposed draft By-law 76-20
- Attachment 2: Proposed draft By-law 77-20
- Attachment 3: Proposed draft By-law 85-20
- Attachment 4: Resident Notice of Proposed Parking Changes
- Attachment 5: Regatta Ave No Parking Restrictions Map
- Attachment 6: CSZ Warrant

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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	SRPRS.20.043 - Regatta Avenue Parking Concerns.docx
Attachments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- SRPRS.20.043_Attachment 1 Bylaw 76-20.docx- SRPRS.20.043_Attachment 2 Bylaw 77-20.docx- SRPRS.20.043 Attachment 3 - Bylaw 85-20.docx- SRPRS.20.043 - Attachment 4 - Regatta -Letter dated March 5 2019.pdf- SRPRS.20.043 - Attachment 5 - Regatta Ave No Parking Restriction Map.pdf- SRPRS.20.043 - Attachment 6 - CSZ Warrant.docx
Final Approval Date:	Jun 17, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Dan Terzievski - Jun 17, 2020 - 12:37 PM

Kelvin Kwan - Jun 17, 2020 - 1:22 PM

David Dexter - Jun 17, 2020 - 1:28 PM

MaryAnne Dempster - Jun 17, 2020 - 1:37 PM