

COUNCIL MEETING
INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES / ENGINEERING

REPORT ENG-2025-08
April 22, 2025

SUBJECT: Response to Notice of Motion - Woodlawn Road/Niagara Street Intersection - Update from the Region

AUTHOR: Muhammad Ali Khan, P.Eng.
Manager Transportation Engineering

APPROVING: Sherri-Marie Millar, P.Eng.
Director of Infrastructure Services/City Engineer

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND receives for information REPORT ENG-2025-08 Woodlawn Road/Niagara Street Intersection-Update from the Region

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This recommendation is aligned to Council's strategic priority of ensuring "**Health and Wellbeing**" to promote personal health and well-being by offering an abundance of activities that meet the diverse needs and interests all while, advocating for improved health care throughout the city, and supporting the need for safety and security.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On March 4, 2025, the City of Welland Council asked for a staff report on strategies to expedite the addition of right-turn lanes at the Regional intersection of Niagara Street at Woodlawn Road, in response to growing traffic volumes and future development pressures.

In collaboration with the City, Regional staff outlined a multi-step plan to address traffic capacity and safety at this key intersection:

1. **In-Service Road Safety Review (ISRSR)** – Planned for later in 2025 (pending approval), this review will identify current safety issues along Woodlawn Road and propose short-term safety improvements, with possible implementation beginning in 2026.
2. **Transportation Master Plan (TMP)** – An ongoing update to the TMP will evaluate long-term traffic capacity needs, including at the Niagara-Woodlawn intersection. If warranted, the TMP will recommend capacity upgrades and their prioritization in regional infrastructure planning.

3. **Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA)** – Should the TMP support major intersection modifications, including the addition of right-turn lanes, an EA would be required to assess feasibility and minimize impacts—especially due to adjacent cemeteries.

The Region remains committed to working collaboratively with the City of Welland as planning and studies progress.

BACKGROUND:

On March 04, 2025, the Council of the City of Welland approved the following motion:

“WHEREAS, traffic volume on Niagara St. continues to build and will continue to increase as our city grows; and further

WHEREAS, two lanes in a designated right turning lane on north and southbound traffic is vital to improve long term traffic flow.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND requests a staff report on how to navigate, plan for and work with the Region to expedite the addition of right turning lanes on north and southbound lanes from Niagara Street onto to Woodlawn Road."

DISCUSSION:

City and Regional staff met and discussed the above motion passed by the City Council regarding traffic capacity concerns at the intersection of Niagara Street (Regional Road 50) and Woodlawn Road (Regional Road 41).

Below is the Region’s plan on how to address capacity and safety issues at this intersection:

1. **In-Service Road Safety Review (ISRSR)**

Later this year and subject to Regional Council approval, the Region will be initiating an In-Service Road Safety Review (ISRSR) for Woodlawn Road from Niagara Street to South Pelham Road as part of Niagara’s Vision Zero Road Safety Plan. This review will focus on identifying existing safety concerns and recommending short-term countermeasures to reduce collisions and improve road user safety. It is anticipated that, subject to Regional Council budget approvals, some recommendations from the ISRSR could be implemented as early as 2026.

2. **Transportation Master Plan (TMP)**

The Region has initiated an update to its Transportation Master Plan (TMP), which will analyze traffic capacity issues across Niagara Region, including the subject intersection at Niagara Street and Woodlawn Road. The TMP will determine whether capacity enhancements and intersection improvements are warranted based on projected traffic growth and network needs. If additional capacity is deemed necessary, the TMP will provide recommendations on how

and when such improvements should be prioritized within the Region's long-term capital planning framework.

3. Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA)

If the TMP confirms that capacity enhancements are needed at this intersection, any major modifications—such as adding right-turn lanes—would likely require a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA). Given the proximity of cemeteries to the roadway, an EA would be necessary to evaluate the feasibility of widening the intersection while minimizing impacts to adjacent lands. The EA process would include technical analysis and consultation with local interested parties to determine the most appropriate solution.

Regional staff remains committed to working closely with the City of Welland as these studies and projects progress.

FINANCIAL:

N/A

ATTACHMENT:

Notice of Motion.