



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Public Works Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	December 2, 2019
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Feasibility of Determining Out of Town Truck Traffic Using the Red Hill Valley Parkway and the Lincoln M. Alexander Parkway (PW16084(c)) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	David Ferguson (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2433 Rodney Aitchison (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2067 Mike Field (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4576
SUBMITTED BY: SIGNATURE:	Edward Soldo Director, Transportation Operations & Maintenance Public Works Department

COUNCIL DIRECTION

On June 19, 2017, the Public Works Committee passed the following motion:

- (a) That Report PW16084(b) respecting Feasibility of Determining Out of Town Truck Traffic using the Red Hill Valley Parkway (RHVP) and the Lincoln M. Alexander Parkway (LINC), be received;
- (b) That staff be directed to conduct a traffic count study to determine the amount of out of town truck traffic using the RHVP and LINC at the following four locations: Highway 403 at Sunnyridge Road, the QEW and Fifty Road, the RHVP at Barton Street and the LINC at Golf Links Road; and
- (c) That the cost of the study, in the amount of \$16,000 (plus HST), be funded from either the Traffic Count Budget or the Red-Light Camera Reserve Account (upon determination by staff of which is the appropriate funding source).

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OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

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INFORMATION

The combination of the Red Hill Valley Parkway (RHVP) and the Lincoln M. Alexander Parkway (LINC) represents a shorter alternate route for through traffic travelling between the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW) in Stoney Creek and Highway 403 in Ancaster. The Provincial highway route is approximately 31 kilometres whereas the combined RHVP and LINC route is 21 kilometres.

Information Report (PW16084(b)) and the subsequent Council motions envisioned recording traffic using licence plate recognition cameras at the following four locations: Highway 403 in Ancaster, the QEW in Stoney Creek, the RHVP and LINC. The Ancaster and Stoney Creek locations, on the Provincial highways, could not be utilized as there are other intermediate entry points between the proposed camera locations and the parkways, which would not be representative of the traffic on the RHVP and LINC. To ensure more comprehensive results and to complete the study within the original budget estimate, the scope of the study focused on the camera locations only at the end points of the RHVP and LINC.

A roster consultant, CIMA Canada Inc., was retained to conduct a traffic study to determine how much traffic uses the RHVP and LINC as a pass-through route and how much of that traffic is comprised of trucks, which is attached to Report PW16084(c) as Appendix "A". Licence plate recognition cameras were setup in May 2019 to uniquely identify vehicles as they entered the LINC at its west end and the RHVP at its north end. Vehicles were classified as light vehicles, trucks or buses. Images captured at each end of the parkways were compared to determine which vehicles travelled the length of the parkways. This traffic was further categorized into two groups. First, vehicles that travel the entire route without making an intermediate stop, considered to be pass-through traffic. Second, vehicles travelling the entire route but exiting onto the local road network along the way to make a delivery or other stops, considered to be non-pass through. This was accomplished by comparing travel times and adjusting for longer travel times during some periods of the day caused by congestion.

The following table shows the total traffic volume entering the parkways and summarizes the volume of pass-through traffic at different times of the day and by vehicle type.

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Pass-Through Traffic Summary

Period	Vehicle Type	Eastbound			Westbound		
		Total Traffic (1)	Pass Through Traffic	Pass Through %	Total Traffic (2)	Pass Through Traffic	Pass Through %
AM Peak Hour	Light Vehicles	1,672	187	11%	1,833	222	12%
	Trucks	215	64	30%	216	73	34%
PM Peak Hour	Light Vehicles	2,593	172	7%	1,960	186	9%
	Trucks	181	69	38%	145	43	30%
Day Time (7 a.m. to 8 p.m.)	Light Vehicles	26,017	1,831	7%	23,909	2,072	9%
	Trucks	2,250	795	35%	2,169	732	34%

- 1) Eastbound total traffic is the volume entering the LINC at its west end (near Hwy 403); and
- 2) Westbound total traffic is the volume entering the RHVP at its north end (near the QEW).

In summary, during various times of the day, a range of 30-38% of the truck traffic and 7-12% of the light vehicle traffic entering the parkways is pass-through traffic. The highest percentage of pass-through traffic from trucks (38%) occurs during the PM peak hour and is entering the LINC at its west end.

Commercial Vehicle Survey

The Ontario 2012 Commercial Vehicle Survey (CVS), conducted by the Ministry of Transportation, Ontario (MTO), is an invaluable resource for transportation and infrastructure planning at the provincial level. It provides an understanding of commercial vehicle flows and insights into the trucking and logistics industries, economic relationships in the province, and the traffic and road infrastructure impacts of these flows.

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A sample of the 24-hour volume data from the Ministry of Ontario's (MTO) 2012 Commercial Vehicle Survey (CVS) report attached to Report PW16084(c) as Appendix "B". The volumes represent truck traffic on major routes within Hamilton.

A comparison of the MTO report volumes to the City data suggests that more truck traffic is now using the LINC/RHVP than in 2012 but this is not a conclusive finding since the two studies are scoped differently.

The City is participating in the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario's (MTO) 2018-2023 Commercial Vehicle Survey (CVS). This survey will further update and detail truck traffic to, from and through Hamilton and will be reviewed by staff once data becomes available.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix "A" to Report PW16084(c) – Red Hill Parkway and Lincoln Alexander Parkway Origin-Destination Analysis (CIMA Canada Inc.)

Appendix "B" to Report PW16084(c) – Hamilton Related Traffic Volumes – 2012 CVS – Average daily truck trips to/from and through Hamilton