

Installation of Traffic Control Signals on Steeles Avenue East at the Driveway to the "Gates of Bayview" Apartment Complex (Seneca Heights)

(City Council on November 23, 24 and 25, 1999, adopted this Clause, without amendment.)

The Works Committee recommends the adoption of the following report (October 20, 1999) from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services:

Purpose:

To obtain approval for the installation of traffic control signals on Steeles Avenue East, at the intersection formed by the driveway to the "Gates of Bayview" apartment complex on the south side and Old English Lane on the north side.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

Funds associated with new traffic signal installations, in the amount of \$1.6 million, are contained in the Transportation Division's 1999 capital budget.

These funds have already been fully committed through approvals of 21 new traffic signal installations. Therefore, unless additional funding is identified in 1999, new signal approvals for the balance of 1999 will be placed on a priority list for installation in the year 2000.

The total cost for the installation of traffic signals at this location, which would require the removal of a pedestrian refuge island, has been estimated at \$120,000.00.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) traffic control signals be installed on Steeles Avenue East at the intersection of the "Gates of Bayview" apartment complex; and
- (2) the appropriate City officials be requested to take whatever action is necessary to give effect to the foregoing, including the introduction in Council of any Bills that may be required.

Background:

The residents of the "Gates of Bayview" apartment complex have expressed concern with the high number of accidents that they experience as they attempt to access and egress their site, and with the difficulties of pedestrians crossing Steeles Avenue near their site to use transit service. This complex, located in the southeast quadrant of Bayview Avenue and Steeles Avenue East,

has two driveways. Access is gained through a driveway on the south side of Steeles Avenue East, opposite Old English Lane, and egress is achieved through this driveway as well as a driveway on Bayview Avenue. No opportunity to access or egress from other roads exists and neither access is signal controlled.

The number of total accidents in the vicinity of these driveways is significant. Fifteen accidents in the last three years were recorded on Steeles Avenue East and 31 on Bayview Avenue. This is much above the average of five accidents per year required to meet the accident warrants for traffic signal installation, which indicates a significant safety concern as related by the residents of the apartment complex. Arrangements have been made with the condominium association to direct as much traffic as practicable to the proposed signalized access to take full advantage of the improved safety created by the signal installation.

Conclusions:

The installation of traffic control signals at the subject location is warranted. It would provide immediate benefit and relief to an accident problem being experienced by residents of the “Gates of Bayview” apartment complex, as they attempt to access and egress their site. In addition, the proposed signals will provide a protected pedestrian crossing for transit users on Steeles Avenue.

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Insert Map:
Steeles Avenue East at Gates of Bayview Apartment Complex Access
and Old English Lane