

Rescindment of Parking Prohibition - Queen Street East, North Side from Broadview Avenue to Boulton Avenue (Don River)

(City Council on December 14, 15 and 16, 1999, adopted this Clause, without amendment.)

The Toronto Community Council recommends the adoption of the following report (November 19, 1999) from the Director, Transportation Services, District 1:

Purpose:

To report on rescinding the current parking prohibition from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday on the north side of Queen Street East between Broadview Avenue and Boulton Avenue to enhance parking opportunity for patrons of nearby businesses.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

Funds to undertake the necessary work in the estimated amount of \$400.00 are available in the Transportation Services Division current 1999 Operating Budget.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the parking prohibition from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday on the north side of Queen Street East from Broadview Avenue to Boulton Avenue, be rescinded;
- (2) the hours of operation of the parking meters on the north side of Queen Street East between Broadview Avenue and Boulton Avenue, currently 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday and 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, be adjusted to operate from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday and 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday; and
- (3) the appropriate City Officials be authorized to take whatever action is necessary to implement the foregoing, including the introduction in Council of any Bills that might be required.

Background:

Councillor Jack Layton, on behalf of the Broadview Village BIA/Safe Neighbourhoods Network, requested Transportation Services to investigate rescinding the parking prohibition, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, on the north side of Queen Street East in the vicinity of Broadview Avenue. It is felt by the community that this will enhance parking opportunity for business patrons during the afternoon rush period on this primarily retail/commercial section of the street.

Comments:

Queen Street East is a two-way, four-lane arterial road with a pavement width of 12.8 metres. Stopping is prohibited from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., Monday to Friday and parking is prohibited from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday on the north side between the Don River Bridge and Boulton Avenue. Parking is otherwise allowed at parking meter spaces on this section of the street for periods ranging from one hour from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday and 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday (meter operational hours) to three hours at other times.

A similar request was reviewed by staff of the former City of Toronto in 1996 on Queen Street East between McGee Street (one block east of Boulton Avenue) and Jones Avenue. Westbound traffic volumes ranging from 350 to 450 vehicles during the afternoon peak hour were recorded. Based on that assessment, suitable roadway capacity could be maintained on Queen Street East if the parking prohibition from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday was rescinded. This amendment was implemented and has enhanced parking opportunity for business patrons along this section of Queen Street East without adversely effecting traffic or public transit operations.

A recent traffic survey conducted on Queen Street East recorded an afternoon peak hour volume of about 400 vehicles (including 25 streetcars) travelling westbound on Queen Street East between Broadview Avenue and Boulton Avenue. Since Queen Street East, west of Broadview Avenue provides westbound traffic with access via Davies Street to the Don Valley Parkway (northbound), the westbound afternoon peak hour traffic volume was about 25% higher (about 500 vehicles). The addition of south-right turning streetcars from Broadview Avenue onto Queen Street East increased the afternoon peak hour streetcar volume to 41 vehicles west of Broadview Avenue.

As a means of comparison, the average off-peak hour westbound traffic volume on Queen Street East both east and west of Broadview Avenue is about 400 vehicles. Since parking is allowed during off-peak hours and during the afternoon rush period further east on the north side of Queen Street East, our assessment suggests that parking could also be allowed from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday on the north side of Queen Street East between Broadview Avenue and Boulton Avenue. However, given the higher peak hour traffic volume and additional public transit movements west of Broadview Avenue, the parking prohibition should be retained from Broadview Avenue to the Don River Bridge.

Conclusions:

Based on our assessment, the parking prohibition from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday on the north side of Queen Street East from Broadview Avenue to Boulton Avenue should be rescinded to enhance parking opportunity for patrons of nearby businesses.

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