



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Walsh Avenue ramp onto Weston Road – U-Turn Prohibition

Date:	January 4, 2007
To:	Etobicoke York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services, Etobicoke York District
Wards:	Ward 7 - York West
Reference Number:	eycc070002-to

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to propose a northbound U-turn prohibition on the ramp from Walsh Avenue (Weston Road East Ramp) onto Weston Road. Approval of this report will result in the installation of regulatory “No U-turn” signs at this location.

Considering Weston Road is a four lane arterial road with limited sightlines due to the curve in the road to the south of this location, combined with the Walsh Avenue overpass, we are recommending that northbound U-turns be prohibited in this sensitive area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is the recommendation of Transportation Services that:

1. U-turns be prohibited anytime for northbound traffic on the Weston Road East Ramp to Weston Road; and
2. The appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto, including the introduction in Council of any bills that may be required.

Financial Impact

Type of Funding	Source of Funds	Amount
Available within current budget	Transportation Services Operating Budget	\$300.00
Additional funding request for current budget year	Not applicable	Nil
Funding required for next budget year	Not applicable	Nil
Total financial impact		\$300.00

DECISION HISTORY

As part of the recent resurfacing of Weston Road, Technical Services staff received complaints from a resident living in the vicinity of the intersection of Weston Road and the ramp from Walsh Avenue that motorists were making U-turns from this ramp to change their direction of travel from northbound to southbound. The intention of this ramp is only to provide access for motorists to travel northbound on Weston Road.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Transportation Services staff investigated a concern with northbound U-turns occurring from the ramp on the east side of Weston Road, that connects Walsh Avenue to Weston Road, by motorists who then travel south on Weston Road. A map of the area is Attachment No. 1.

COMMENTS

Weston Road is classified as a major arterial road. The section of Weston Road has recently been resurfaced between a point south of Albion Road/Walsh Avenue to Mainshep Road. Albion Road/Walsh Avenue and Weston Road is grade separated with ramps connecting the two roads. The specific ramp that was investigated connects Walsh Avenue to Weston Road, on the east side for motorists who are intending to travel northbound. For both directions on Walsh Avenue/Albion Road, signs are clearly posted indicating access to both Weston Road Northbound (easterly ramp) and Weston Road Southbound (westerly ramp). A 50 km/h speed limit is posted on Weston Road, and Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) service is provided on this road.

As part of our investigation, Transportation Services staff conducted studies on the ramp from Walsh Avenue to Weston Road (northbound). Our study results are as follows:

Study Date	Study Time	Number of NB to SB U-turns
May 6, 2006	9:10 – 10:10 a.m.	5
October 10, 2006	9:10 – 10:10 a.m.	3

To determine why motorists are performing these U-turn movements, we evaluated the existing signing on Walsh Avenue and Albion Road. For both directions, we noted that the signs indicating access to both Weston Road Northbound (easterly ramp) and Weston Road Southbound (westerly ramp) are clearly visible. It was initially suspected that these movements may be performed by area residents who are exiting from Lovilla Boulevard onto the northbound ramp to avoid travelling around the block to access Walsh Avenue and then to the westerly ramp to travel southbound on Weston Road. Although this may possibly be the case during other times of the day, during our study, the motorists who performed these turns all came from Walsh Avenue and appear to be performing the U-turns to avoid the west ramp that connects Albion Road to Weston Road southbound. Essentially, these motorists are trying to circumvent the queues that sometimes exist on this west ramp.

Our review of the collision history over the past five years, January 1, 2001 to December 31, 2005 does not reveal any collisions involving these movements.

CONTACT

Bruce Clayton, Supervisor, Traffic Engineering-Etobicoke York District
 Tel: (416)394-8408; Fax: (416)394-8942
 E-mail: clayton@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

John Niedra, P.Eng.
 Director, Transportation Services-Etobicoke York District

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment No. 1: Map