



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Lane Designation, Pedestrian Crossing Prohibition: Steeles Avenue East at Townsend Road

Date:	June 7, 2007
To:	North York Community Council
From:	Acting Director, Transportation Services, North York District
Wards:	Ward 24 - Willowdale
Reference Number:	p:\2007\ClusterB\TRA\NorthYork\nycc07059tsny (5339)

SUMMARY

To obtain approval to designate the eastbound curb lane for right turns only and to prohibit pedestrians from crossing the east leg of the intersection at Steeles Avenue East at Townsend Road.

The implementation of these modifications will improve pedestrian safety at this intersection.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services, North York District recommends that:

1. pedestrian crossings be prohibited on Steeles Avenue East, between the westerly curb line of Townsend Road and a point 30.5 metres east of the east curb line of Townsend Road;
2. the eastbound curb lane on Steeles Avenue East be designated for right-turning vehicles only, buses excepted, from the westerly limit of Townsend Road to a point 40 meters west thereof; and
3. the appropriate City Officials be authorized and directed to take whatever action deemed necessary to implement the foregoing including the introduction in Council of any bills that are required.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

All costs associated with the implementation of the eastbound right turn lane designation and the pedestrian crossing prohibition are included within the Transportation Services Division, North York District's 2007 Operating Budget.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Transportation Services Division, North York District was requested by Councillor David Shiner, on behalf of local residents, to review pedestrian safety issues at the intersection of Steeles Avenue East and Townsend Road. These issues were discussed at an evening community meeting held on April 30, 2007 attended by Councillor Shiner and Transportation Services staff.

COMMENTS

The intersection of Steeles Avenue East and Townsend Road is controlled by traffic control signals. Toronto Transit Commission bus stops are currently located on the west side of the intersection for both eastbound and westbound Steeles Avenue East. The on-ramp to Highway 404 is located approximately 40 metres east of the intersection.

A review of the collision history over a five-year period ending December 31, 2006, indicates that there have been five reported incidents at this intersection involving pedestrians. Three of the five pedestrian collisions involved pedestrians crossing on the east leg of the intersection.

The eastbound curb lane is a shared right turn/through lane and bus bay. Observations indicate that through motorists destined for the Highway 404 on-ramp travel through this lane at high speeds on a green signal indication or accelerate quickly on a red signal indication in their attempts to access the ramp quickly and at a high speed. With their focus on accessing the highway, eastbound motorists are often not paying enough attention to pedestrians who may be crossing the east leg of the Steeles Avenue/Townsend Road intersection.

In the interest of pedestrian safety, two modifications are recommended. Firstly, it is recommended that the eastbound curb lane be designated for right turns only, buses excepted. This means that motorists destined for Highway 404 will have to make a lane change in order to access the ramp and therefore cannot do so at the speeds currently being observed. Secondly, it is recommended that pedestrians be prohibited from crossing the east leg of the intersection. Pedestrians will still be able to conveniently

access the bus stops which are both located on the west side of the intersection as well as the mall on the north side of the intersection.

Councillor David Shiner has indicated his support for the recommendations of this staff report.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Trevor Tenn, P. Eng.
Acting Director

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment: Map – Steeles Avenue at Townsend Road, Lane Designation, Pedestrian Crossing Prohibition (nycc07059tsny)