



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Traffic Control Signal Installation: Finch Avenue East at Finch Station Exit

Date:	August 22, 2007
To:	North York Community Council
From:	Acting Director, Transportation Services, North York District
Wards:	Wards 24 – Don Valley East
Reference Number:	p:\2007\ClusterB\TRA\NorthYork\nycc07092tsny (5843)

SUMMARY

To obtain approval for the installation of traffic control signals at the intersection of Finch Avenue East and Finch Station Exit.

The installation of traffic control signals at Finch Avenue East and Finch Station Exit would alleviate the significant delays currently experienced by buses turning left out of the Finch Station Exit in order to access Finch Avenue East.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services, North York District recommends that:

1. traffic control signals be installed at the intersection of Finch Avenue East and Finch Station Exit; and
2. the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take whatever action is necessary to implement the foregoing, including the introduction in Council of any Bills that are required.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

All costs associated with the traffic control signals at Finch Avenue East and Finch Station Exit, estimated at \$190,000.00 for installation as well as \$5,000.00 in annual maintenance, will be borne by the Toronto Transit Commission.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

At its meeting on October 25, 2006 the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) approved the proposed rerouting of the 39 Finch East bus service. The buses serving this route currently turn left out of the Finch Station to access Finch Avenue East. The rerouting proposed that the buses would exit the station to Bishop Avenue, turn right at Kenneth Avenue and then turn left at the existing traffic control signals at Finch Avenue East and Kenneth Avenue.

As part of the public consultation process for routing changes, a public meeting was held on February 19, 2007 attended by Councillor Shiner and staff of TTC and Transportation Services. Based on concerns raised by residents regarding the rerouting, staff were asked to review the feasibility of installing traffic control signals at the intersection of Finch Avenue East and the Finch Station Exit.

On March 28, 2007 a follow-up public meeting was arranged by Councillor Shiner to update residents on the feasibility of installing traffic control signals at the proposed location.

At its meeting of July 11, 2007, the Toronto Transit Commission approved a report which recommended that the TTC fund the installation of the traffic control signals at Finch Avenue East and Finch Station Exit.

COMMENTS

Finch Avenue East is a four-lane major arterial road with a daily two-way traffic flow of approximately 28,000 vehicles, and a regulatory speed limit of 60 km/h. The exit from the Finch Bus Station is located approximately 80 metres east of Yonge Street. TTC buses currently make left turns out of this exit without the aid of traffic control signals. Given the volume of traffic on Finch Avenue East, particularly during peak periods, TTC vehicles are delayed while attempting the left turn and must rely on “courtesy gaps” from motorists. This can result in delays to both westbound and eastbound motorists on Finch Avenue East.

In an effort to eliminate the difficulties associated with making the left turn from the station, the TTC had originally proposed the above-mentioned rerouting. However, given the concerns raised by local residents regarding bus traffic on local roads, staff of the TTC and Transportation Services reviewed alternatives. The option of using paid duty officers to assist buses turning left on to Finch Avenue East was considered but deemed cost prohibitive. The option of enhancing signs and pavement markings to make motorists aware of left-turning buses was reviewed but was considered to be ineffective.

Finally, the feasibility of installing traffic control signals at the station exit was reviewed. The main concern was the relatively short spacing (80 metres) to the adjacent traffic control signals at Yonge Street. Given this spacing, the proposed signal could only

operate safely with a hardwire interconnect between the new signal and Yonge Street. Significant testing of traffic controllers and associated communication equipment has taken place to confirm that the two intersections could operate safely given the proposed signal phasing plan.

The installation of traffic control signals at Finch Avenue East and Finch Station Exit would alleviate the significant delays being experienced by TTC buses and will address residents concerns associated with the original bus rerouting proposal.

Councillor David Shiner supports the recommendations contained within this report.

CONTACT

Martin D. Maguire, P. Eng.
Manager, Traffic Operations
Tel: 416-395-7463
Fax: 416-395-7544
Email: mmaguir@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Trevor Tenn, P. Eng.
Acting Director

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1: Map – Finch Av E at TTC Bus Terminal Access: Traffic Control Signals, Turns/Pedestrian Crossing Prohibitions (nycc07092tsny_map1)
- Attachment 2: Map – Finch Av E at TTC Bus Terminal Access: Traffic Control Signals Plan (nycc07092tsny_map2)