



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Proposed Bicycle Lanes on The Queensway from Windermere Avenue to Claude Avenue

Date:	June 11, 2007
To:	Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
From:	General Manager, Transportation Services
Wards:	Parkdale-High Park, Ward 13 Parkdale-High Park, Ward 14
Reference Number:	p:\2007\ClusterB\tra\tim\pw07015tim

SUMMARY

This report is being submitted to Public Works and Infrastructure Committee because the proposed bicycle lanes on The Queensway span two Community Council districts.

The purpose of this report is to obtain authority to install bicycle lanes on The Queensway from Windermere Avenue to Claude Avenue.

The reconstruction of The Queensway provides an opportunity to include bicycle lanes in the new design. The installation of bicycle lanes on The Queensway will not impact traffic operations or parking. The T.T.C. has no concerns with this proposal on the bus route service on The Queensway. The Ward Councillors have been consulted and support the proposed bicycle lanes on The Queensway.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services Division recommends that City Council:

1. approve the installation of bicycle lanes on both sides of The Queensway, from Windermere Avenue to Claude Avenue, as detailed in Appendix A of this report; and
2. authorize and direct the appropriate City officials to take the necessary action to give effect thereto, including the introduction of all necessary bills.

Financial Impact

Funds to implement the bicycle lanes on The Queensway, in the estimated amount of \$40,000.00, are provided for within the Transportation Services Division 2007 Capital Budget in the Cycling Infrastructure Account CTP 807-05.

DECISION HISTORY

City Council, at its meeting on July 24, 25 and 26, 2001, adopted the Toronto Bike Plan (Clause No. 3 of Report No. 8 of the Planning and Transportation Committee). One of the key recommendations of the Toronto Bike Plan is to implement a 1,000 kilometre Bikeway Network.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Queensway, between Windermere Avenue and Claude Avenue, was not identified as a proposed bikeway in the Toronto Bike Plan. However the Bike Plan states that, “The network will evolve as new opportunities and challenges present themselves.” The reconstruction of The Queensway over this section has provided an opportunity to add to the Bikeway Network.

COMMENTS

Existing Conditions

The Queensway is 8.4 metres wide in each direction over this section, with an exclusive streetcar right-of-way between the two directions. Traffic volumes are in the range of 20,000 vehicles daily. There are signalized intersections at Windermere Avenue, Ellis Avenue and Colborne Lodge Drive. The Toronto Transit Commission operates the 80-Queensway bus route in both directions over the section between Windermere Avenue and Ellis Avenue, and the 77-Swansea bus route westbound over the section from Coe Hill Drive to Windermere Avenue. Stopping is prohibited at all times on both sides of The Queensway along the entire section between Windermere Avenue and Claude Avenue, and the speed limit is 60 kilometers per hour.

Bicycle Lane Design

The Queensway, between Windermere Avenue and Claude Avenue, has been reconstructed at a width that can accommodate two traffic lanes and a bicycle lane in each direction. When construction was completed, the curb lanes were marked at 5.1 metres wide in order to accommodate a 1.8 metre bicycle lane and 3.3 metre traffic lane in the future. The attached Drawing No. 421P0030, dated June 2007, entitled “The Queensway Windermere Ave – Claude Ave Proposed Bicycle Lane Location Plan” illustrates the proposed conditions along the route. Drawing No. 421P0031, dated June 2007, illustrates the typical cross-section.

Traffic Impacts

The bicycle lanes will have little impact on motor vehicle traffic, although one possible positive benefit may be a reduction in the number of speeding motorists as a result of the narrowing of the curb traffic lanes.

T.T.C. Impacts

The proposed bicycle lanes will have no impact on T.T.C. bus or streetcar operations on The Queensway. The T.T.C. has been consulted on this proposal and does not have any concerns.

Public Consultation

The bicycle lanes were part of the road reconstruction design presented at an April 26, 2005 Community Information Meeting. Of the many comments made at the meeting, only one related to the bicycle lanes, and it was supportive.

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ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A – Bicycle Lanes to be Designated
Drawing No. 421P0030
Drawing No. 421P0031