

Bellair Street and Cumberland Street – removal of disabled parking spaces

Date:	July 26, 2007
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District
Wards:	Toronto Centre – Rosedale, Ward 27
Reference Number:	Ts07167te.top.doc

SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter for which the Community Council has delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision.

At the request of Councillor Kyle Rae and the Bloor-Yorkville BIA, Transportation Services investigated concerns about disabled persons parking spaces on sections of Bellair Street and Cumberland Street.

Investigation revealed these parking spaces are not providing a benefit to patrons of businesses in the Yorkville community. Staff recommends removing these spaces and allowing parking and/or loading under the pay-&-display regulations in place elsewhere on these streets.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. remove the designated disabled parking spaces on Bellair Street and Cumberland Street and include these spaces in the general parking regulations on these streets; and
2. amend the parking regulations outlined in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 of this report to enact Recommendation No. 1.

Financial Impact

Type of funding	Source of funds	Amount
Available within current budget	Toronto Transportation Services 2007 operating budget.	\$1000

ISSUE BACKGROUND

At the request of Councillor Kyle Rae, Transportation Services staff met with Councillor Kyle Rae's staff and representatives of the Bloor-Yorkville B.I.A. to discuss and come up with a resolution to the B.I.A.'s concerns surrounding use of designated parking spaces for disabled persons on sections of Bellair Street and Cumberland Street.

COMMENTS

Historical Overview

In 2001, the Bloor-Yorkville B.I.A. asked Transportation Services to investigate changing the parking regulations on Bellair Street and Yorkville Avenue to keep the curb area clear of parked vehicles during the daytime hours. The intent was to provide opportunity for local businesses to receive curb-side deliveries. Parking was prohibited on both sides of these streets at that time. Vehicles displaying disabled parking permits (exempted from the parking prohibition), often parked eliminating curb space for delivery vehicles. The B.I.A. also suggested allowing parking in the evening hours to improve parking opportunity for customers of shops and restaurants in the Yorkville business community.

Regulations were implemented designating sections on the north side of Yorkville Avenue and west side of Bellair Street, north of Cumberland Street as loading areas from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday and parking, under pay-&-display parking restrictions, at other times. "Disabled Persons' Parking Spaces" (DPPS) were also identified on sections of the north side of Yorkville Avenue (3 spaces) and west side of Bellair Street (2 spaces). These amendments are outlined in Clause 32 of Report No. 8 of the Toronto-East York Community Council, adopted by City Council at its meeting of November 6, 7 and 8, 2001.

In 2004, similar loading and parking provisions were made at the request of the B.I.A. on the north side of Cumberland Street, between Avenue Road and Bellair Street (Clause 88 in Report No. 1 of the Toronto South Community Council, adopted by City Council at its meeting of January 27, 28 and 29, 2004). Two additional DPPS's were identified on Cumberland Street resulting in a total of 7 such spaces in the Yorkville business community.

In May 2006, the DPPS's on the north side of Yorkville Avenue were removed and parking/loading regulation were temporarily amended until December 2008, to provide a staging area for construction of a condominium at Nos. 80-100 Yorkville Avenue.

Current Investigation

Over 600 on-street parking spaces for disabled persons are identified in the central area of the City. All are installed in residential neighbourhoods either at the request of a disabled person to provide the person with a convenient parking space close to their home or in the vicinity of medical clinics that generate frequent visits by disabled persons.

The 4 remaining "Disabled Persons' Parking Spaces" in the Yorkville business community are the only spaces of this type identified in a predominantly shopping/dining neighbourhood of the City. The intent of providing these parking spaces in the Yorkville area was to enhance parking opportunity for disabled persons patronizing local businesses. However, the Bloor-Yorkville B.I.A. has advised staff that certain business proprietors themselves or persons working in the area monopolize use of the spaces throughout the day. This activity is generating complaints within the B.I.A. membership and has lead to the request by the B.I.A. to remove all on-street parking spaces for disabled persons in the Yorkville business community.

Off-street parking garages with spaces designated for disabled persons are conveniently located in the Yorkville business community. These garages address the longer term parking requirements of disabled business proprietors and other disabled persons working in the neighbourhood.

Resolution

Transportation Services recommends removing the parking spaces for disabled persons on:

- the west side of Bellair Street, from a point 37.4 metres north of Cumberland Street to a point 12 metres further north; and
- the north side of Cumberland Street, from a point 208 metres east of Avenue Road to a point 12 metres further east.

Once the spaces are removed, these areas will become part of the commercial loading areas from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday and on-street parking supply at other times, under the terms of the pay-&-display parking requirements.

Councillor Rae's office has advised Transportation Services he supports this proposal.

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Drawing No. 421F-9021, dated July 2007
Appendix 1 – Regulations to be Rescinded on Bellair Street and Cumberland Street
Appendix 2 – Regulations to be Implemented on Bellair Street and Cumberland Street

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