



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Blackthorn Avenue and Lane north of St. Clair Avenue West - Changes to Traffic Regulations

Date:	August 8, 2008
To:	Etobicoke York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services - Etobicoke York District
Wards:	Ward 17 - Davenport
Reference Number:	p:\2008\Cluster B\TRA\EtobicokeYork\eycc080129-to

SUMMARY

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

The purpose of this report is to propose removing a short mid-block one-way designation on Blackthorn Avenue just north of the first lane north of St. Clair Avenue West, resulting in a two-way operation between St. Clair Avenue West and a point 117 metres further north thereof.

The proposed two-way operation will improve access to the parking lot at the rear of St. Clair Avenue West, and at the same time resolve the concerns with motorists travelling southbound illegally.

Transportation Services identified the need to improve traffic operations for the Commercial Properties in the lane at the rear of 1646 to 1686 St. Clair Avenue West. In order to improve accessibility from the lane system, staff also recommend the conversion of the two-way lane, just north of St. Clair Avenue West between Prescott Avenue and Blackthorn Avenue, to a one-way westbound operation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that Etobicoke York Community Council approve:

1. Rescinding the existing two-way operation on Blackthorn Avenue between St. Clair Avenue West and the lane first north of St. Clair Avenue West.

2. Rescinding the existing one-way northbound operation on Blackthorn Avenue between the lane first north of St. Clair Avenue West and Rowntree Avenue.
3. Implementing a one-way northbound operation on Blackthorn Avenue between a point 117 metres north of St. Clair Avenue West and Rowntree Avenue.
4. Implementing a one-way westbound operation on the first lane north of St. Clair Avenue West between Prescott Avenue and Blackthorn Avenue.

Financial Impact

Type of funding	Source of funds	Amount
Available within current budget	Transportation Services Division Operating Budget	\$2,000.00

ISSUE BACKGROUND

At the request of Councillor Cesar Palacio, on behalf of area businesses and residents, Transportation staff reviewed the operation of Blackthorn Avenue between St. Clair Avenue West and a point 117 metres further north thereof and the operation of the first lane north of St. Clair Avenue West between Prescott Avenue and Blackthorn Avenue in order to mitigate safety concerns.

COMMENTS

Blackthorn Avenue is an 8.5 metre wide local roadway, which operates two-way between St. Clair Avenue West and the first lane north of St. Clair Avenue West and one-way northbound between the first lane north of St. Clair Avenue West and Rowntree Avenue.

Blackthorn Avenue is a mix of primarily single family residential homes. There are some commercial properties on the southeast and southwest corners of Blackthorn Avenue at St. Clair Avenue West. Commercial properties on St. Clair Avenue West have access to the two parking lots north of the first lane north of St. Clair Avenue West via Blackthorn Avenue and Prescott Avenue.

Recent observations revealed that the one-way northbound regulation on Blackthorn Avenue between the first lane north of St. Clair Avenue West and the parking lot is being ignored frequently. This was confirmed by a recent traffic study that revealed that of the 550 daily vehicles using Blackthorn Avenue between the first lane north of St. Clair Avenue West and the parking lot, 35 are travelling southbound illegally to exit from the parking facilities towards St. Clair Avenue West.

It would appear that motorists are ignoring the one-way regulation because of the short access length (75 metres) and to avoid travelling in a circuitous route to proceed southbound. This creates potential conflicts with northbound motorists not expecting a southbound vehicle travelling on a one-way northbound street.

Rescinding the one-way traffic operation on Blackthorn Avenue from St. Clair Avenue West to a point 117 metres further north, will improve access to the parking lot north of the first lane north of St. Clair Avenue West, and at the same time resolve the concerns with motorists travelling southbound illegally.

There are two segments of east-west public laneways running parallel and to the north of St. Clair Avenue West, between Prescott Avenue and Silverthorn Avenue.

The two segments between Prescott Avenue and Blackthorn Avenue and Silverthorn Avenue and Blackthorn Avenue are two-way operation laneways.

In order to improve traffic operations for the residents and commercial properties on the lane at the rear of 1646 to 1686 St. Clair Avenue West, who have access to the laneways, Transportation Services staff examined the feasibility of converting the existing segment of laneway that operates two-way, to a westbound only operation. The conversion of the two-way lane, just north of St. Clair Avenue West between Prescott Avenue and Blackthorn Avenue, to a one-way westbound operation, will mitigate any traffic congestion within the laneway and facilitate vehicular access.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

John Niedra, P.Eng.
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ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment No. 1: Map - Existing Two-Way Operation
Attachment No. 2: Map - Proposed Two-Way Operation