

Installation of Traffic Control Signals: Otonabee Avenue and Willowdale Avenue

Date:	June 17, 2008
To:	North York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Division, North York District
Wards:	Ward 24 - Willowdale
Reference Number:	ny08075

SUMMARY

To obtain approval to modify recommendations adopted by Toronto City Council for a Works Committee report entitled “Pedestrian Crossover Review (Part II) – Minor Arterial Roadways (All Wards)” in order to install traffic control signals at the intersection of Otonabee Avenue and Willowdale Avenue and to provide enhancement of the existing Pedestrian Crossover (PXO) at the intersection of Abitibi Avenue and Willowdale Avenue.

The replacement of the existing PXO at the intersection of Willowdale Avenue and Otonabee Avenue with traffic control signals and the enhancement of the existing PXO at the intersection of Willowdale Avenue and Abitibi Avenue is the appropriate form of traffic control on Willowdale Avenue, south of Steeles Avenue East.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Transportation Services Division recommends that:

1. the existing pedestrian crossover at the intersection of Willowdale Avenue and Otonabee Avenue be replaced with traffic control signals; and
2. the existing pedestrian crossover at the intersection of Willowdale Avenue and Abitibi Avenue be modified with enhancements to flashing beacons, signs and pavement markings

FINANCIAL IMPACT

All costs associated with the installation of traffic control signals at the intersection of Otonabee Avenue and Willowdale Avenue and the enhancement of the existing PXO at the intersection of Abitibi Avenue and Willowdale Avenue are included in capital account CTP-708-26 – PXO Replacement & Visibility Enhancement program.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

At its meeting of September 25, 26 and 27, 2006, Toronto City Council adopted recommendations by the Works Committee contained in a report entitled “Pedestrian Crossover Review (Part II) – Minor Arterial Roadways (All Wards)”. The purpose of the report was to assess pedestrian crossovers on minor arterial roadways and to make recommendations regarding the enhancement or replacement of existing PXOs with traffic control signals.

The report recommended that the PXO at the intersection of Willowdale Avenue and Abitibi Avenue be replaced with traffic control signals while the PXO at the intersection of Willowdale Avenue and Otonabee Avenue was to continue as a pedestrian crossing facility with enhancements to the flashing beacons, signs and pavement markings.

COMMENTS

Willowdale Avenue is classified as a minor arterial roadway with a regulatory speed limit of 50 km/h.

Currently, there are PXOs on Willowdale Avenue at Abitibi Avenue and Otonabee Avenue. Pedestrians crossing Willowdale Avenue at Otonabee Avenue receive assistance from a school crossing guard.

Upon review of recent traffic data and observations conducted on Willowdale Avenue at both Abitibi Avenue and Otonabee Avenue, the recent results indicate that the previously recommended replacement of the PXO at Abitibi Avenue is no longer appropriate and should be enhanced. However, the results show that the PXO at Otonabee Avenue now meet the criterion to be replaced with a traffic control signal.

Recently conducted 24-hour vehicle speed and volume studies have indicated that vehicle operating speeds and the pedestrian crossing volumes on Willowdale Avenue are higher at Otonabee Avenue than at Abitibi Avenue, as indicated in the following table:

Willowdale Avenue	Dir	Speed Limit	24 Hr Volume	Vehicle Speeds		# of Pedestrians crossing at PXO
				Operating	Average	
Abitibi Avenue (North Intersection)	N/B	50	4934	55	55	59
	S/B		6468	58	50	
Otonabee Avenue (South Intersection)	N/B		7036	56	48	73
	S/B		6827	59	50	

In view of the above, traffic control signals would be a more appropriate form of traffic control at the intersection of Willowdale Avenue and Otonabee Avenue than the intersection of Willowdale Avenue and Abitibi Avenue.

The replacement of the existing PXO at the intersection of Willowdale Avenue and Otonabee Avenue with traffic control signals and the enhancement of the existing PXO at the intersection of Willowdale Avenue and Abitibi Avenue would encourage a higher level of vehicle and pedestrian safety on Willowdale Avenue, south of Steeles Avenue East.

Community Council does not have delegated authority on this matter, due to the presence of a T.T.C. bus route on Willowdale Avenue.

Councillor David Shiner is aware of the recommendations contained within this report.

CONTACT

Martin D. Maguire, P.Eng.
Manager, Traffic Operations
Transportation Services Division, North York District
Tel: 416-395-7463
Fax: 416-395-7544
Email: mmaguir@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Myles Currie, B.A.
Director

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment: Map – Otonabee Avenue and Willowdale Avenue; Traffic Control Signals (ny08075_map)