



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Markham Street – Remove Modular Island/Planter Box

Date:	January 22, 2008
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District
Wards:	Trinity-Spadina, Ward 20
Reference Number:	Ts08025te.top.doc

SUMMARY

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

Transportation Services has investigated a request to alter the width of Markham Street by removing a modular traffic island from the east side of Markham Street, immediately north of Robinson Terrace, fronting Premises No. 45. This traffic island was installed to narrow the road and deter northbound motorists from inadvertently travelling further north on Markham Street against a one-way southbound regulation.

In the interest of safety, Transportation Services recommends maintaining this road narrowing as a physical measure to clearly delineate the commencement of the one-way operation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. not approve the alteration of Markham Street by removing the modular traffic island/planter box on the east side of the street, north of Robinson Street, fronting Premises No. 45 Markham Street, as shown in the attached print of Drawing No. 421F-9183, dated January 2008.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no cost associated with adoption of the above-noted recommendation. If, however, Toronto and East York Community Council decides removing the modular

island/planter box from the east side of Markham Street would be beneficial, the following financial impact will result:

1. the estimated cost for removing the modular island/planter box, restoring the road surface and enhancing one-way signage is about \$1500.00, funds for which are contained in the Transportation Services Division 2008 Operating Budget interim appropriations.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

City Council, at its meetings of July 27, 28, 29 and 30, 1999 and November 23, 24 and 25, 1999 in adopting Clause 56 in Toronto Community Council Report No.11 and Clause 47 in Toronto Community Council Report No.14, authorized two-way traffic operation on Markham Street, between Robinson Street and the first lane north (Robinson Terrace) and the installation of an integrated traffic island/planter box on Markham Street, fronting Premises No. 45, to narrow the street at a point where an opposing one-way southbound regulation begins.

Deputy Mayor Joe Pantalone, on behalf of residents, has requested Transportation Services to remove the island/planter box.

COMMENTS

Existing Conditions

Markham Street is a local roadway with a pavement width of about 7.3 metres. Traffic operates two-way northbound/southbound from Robinson Street to the first lane north (Robinson Terrace). A modular traffic island and planter box is installed on the east side of Markham Street, immediately north of Robinson Terrace. This narrows the street at this point to about 4.2 metres in width. Markham Street changes to one-way southbound operation north of Robinson Terrace.

Investigation

The regulations controlling traffic operation on this section of Markham Street create a quasi-dead end for northbound traffic at Robinson Terrace. Since this is an unusual situation, staff recommended installation of the modular traffic island/planter box in 1999 in conjunction with allowing two-way traffic flow on Markham Street, between Robinson Street and Robinson Terrace. The road narrowing created by the island/planter was to alert motorists to the directional change of the street north of Robinson Terrace and prevent inattentive northbound motorists from continuing further north on the one-way southbound section of Markham Street.

Transportation Services' staff believes keeping this island at its current location is necessary to maintain safe traffic operation on Markham Street, in the blocks from Robinson Street to Dundas Street West.

Optional Road Alteration

If Toronto and East York Community Council determines that removing the modular traffic island/planter box from the east side of Markham Street, north of Robinson Terrace in front of No. 45 Markham Street, is beneficial to the community, it should adopt the following alternative recommendation:

1. approve the alteration of Markham Street, near Robinson Street, consisting of the removal of the road narrowing from in front of Premises No. 45, shown on the attached print of Drawing No. 421F-9183, dated January 2008.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Drawing No. 421F-9183, dated January 2008

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