



**STAFF REPORT  
ACTION REQUIRED**

**Lowther Avenue at Walmer Road – Intersection Road  
Alteration**

<b>Date:</b>	March 12, 2008
<b>To:</b>	Toronto and East York Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District
<b>Wards:</b>	Trinity-Spadina, Ward 20
<b>Reference Number:</b>	Ts08057te.top.doc

**SUMMARY**

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This report is about a matter which Community Council has been delegated authority by City Council to make a final decision.

Approval is requested to narrow pavement widths on Walmer Road/Lowther Avenue in conjunction with planned roadway reconstruction for the purpose of enlarging the Gwendolyn Macewen Parkette. This plan will improve the pedestrian walking environment entering and exiting the parkette, manage traffic flow circulating around the circle and enhance landscaping features within the parkette.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

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**Transportation Services recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council approve:**

1. The alteration of the Walmer Road circle, within the intersection of Lowther Avenue and Walmer Road by narrowing the Walmer Road pavement width to 5.0 metres and reducing the corner radii, generally as shown in the attached print of Drawing No. 421F-9215, dated February 2008.
2. “Stop” sign control for eastbound traffic on Walmer Road and Lowther Avenue (east leg).
3. “Stop” sign control for westbound traffic on Walmer Road (east leg) and Walmer Road (north leg).

4. “Stop” sign control for southbound traffic on Walmer Road (north leg) and Walmer Road (west leg).

### **Financial Impact**

The proposed pavement modifications to the Walmer Road and Lowther Avenue intersection are accommodated in the reconstruction budget for this location under the 2008 Transportation Services Capital Program. The costs for the introduction of all-way stops as shown on the attached print of Drawing No. 421F-9215, dated February 2008, are available within Transportation Services 2008 operating budget interim appropriations in the amount of \$500.00.

### **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

Walmer Road at its intersection with Lowther Avenue is being reconstructed as part of the 2008 Transportation Services Capital Program. This project includes narrowing the pavement width on Walmer Road to increase the footprint of the Gwendolyn Macewen Parkette. Reconstructing this intersection presents an opportunity to improve the pedestrian environment entering/exiting the parkette, manage traffic flow circulating around the parkette and enhance landscaping features within the parkette. Councillor Adam Vaughan and area residents, Staff of Transportation Services, Technical Services, and Parks Forestry and Recreation have developed the plan to improve this intersection.

### **COMMENTS**

#### **Existing Conditions**

Walmer Road is a two-way local roadway with a speed limit of 40 km/h and a pavement width varying between 7.5 and 7.8 metres around Gwendolyn Macewen Parkette. Lowther Avenue is a two-way local roadway with a speed limit of 40 km/h and a pavement width of 7.3 metres. The intersection of these two streets forms a large circle, known as Gwendolyn Macewen Parkette. The radii at all three intersections surrounding the parkette are very large. As a result, pedestrians walking through or out of the parkette enter Walmer Road at mid-block unprotected crossings. TTC service does not operate on Walmer Road or Lowther Avenue.

#### **Proposed Road Alterations**

We are proposing that the pavement width on Walmer Road around the parkette be reduced to 5 metres and significantly narrow the corner radii at all three intersecting corners. By narrowing the pavement width on Walmer Road it allows increasing the footprint of the Gwendolyn Macewen Parkette. This in turn allows the existing pathways within the park to be reconstructed at all three intersecting corners, creating all-way stop conditions and improving public safety. The attached Drawing No. 421F-9215 shows the proposed changes at this location.

Pedestrians should be more comfortable using these intersection after the proposed changes. Their crossing distances of Walmer Road and Lowther Avenue will be reduced, and motorists entering these intersections will be required to come to a full stop before turning the corner. There will be no impact on the level of service for motorists on either Lowther Avenue or Walmer Road.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

Andrew Koropeski, P. Eng.  
Director, Transportation Services

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Drawing No. 421F-9215 dated February 2008  
Drawing No. 421F-9223 dated March 2008

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