
Farnham Avenue and Yonge Street – through and left turn prohibitions

Date:	February 28, 2008
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York
Wards:	St. Paul’s, Ward 22
Report Number:	Ts08044te.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 is seeking authority to prohibit left-turns and straight through movements from Farnham Avenue onto Yonge Street and Jackes Avenue, respectively, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, and to prohibit left-turns from 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, into the first laneway west of Yonge Street, extending from Farnham Avenue to Balmoral Avenue.

Prohibition of the above-noted turn and through restrictions, which currently operate from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., Monday to Friday, will help to reduce traffic backups at this location during the weekday afternoon period when student pick-up/drop-off activities are taking place at York School.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Prohibit eastbound left-turns from Farnham Avenue onto Yonge Street, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.
2. Prohibit straight-through movement from Farnham Avenue onto Jackes Avenue, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

3. Prohibit eastbound left-turns from Farnham Avenue into the first laneway located west of Yonge Street, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Financial Impact

Type of Funding	Source of Funds	Amount
Available within current budget	Transportation Services Division 2008 Operating interim appropriations	\$600.00

BACKGROUND

The prohibition of left turns and straight through movements from Farnham Avenue onto Yonge Street and from Farnham Avenue into the first laneway located west of Yonge Street, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., Monday to Friday, was approved by the Toronto and East York Community Council on October 30, 2007. Following a request from the York School, Councillor Michael Walker has asked Transportation Services to consider implementing the same turn and through movement prohibitions from 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

COMMENTS

Road Characteristics

Farnham Avenue, in the vicinity of the York School operates two-way on a pavement width of 7.3 metres with a maximum speed limit of 30 km/h. Stopping is prohibited on the north side of Farnham Avenue, from Yonge Street to a point 20 metres west. Permit parking operates from 1:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., daily on the north side of Farnham Avenue, from a point 20 metres west of Yonge Street to Avenue Road, and parking is permitted at other times for a maximum period of three hours. Parking is prohibited at all times on the south side of Farnham Avenue. The York School (No. 1320 Yonge Street) is located on the southwest corner of Yonge Street and Farnham Avenue.

There is no TTC service on Farnham Avenue. TTC service on Yonge Street is provided by the “97-Yonge” bus but the proposed prohibitions will not have any impact on this service.

Investigation

Transportation Services recorded 15 eastbound left-turns from Farnham Avenue onto Yonge Street during the 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. period. Traffic volume on Yonge Street is very heavy during this time period. Motorists attempting to turn left often experienced a substantial delay before being able to do so. This frequently resulted in minor traffic backups on Farnham Avenue. These traffic backups often occurred simultaneously with the afternoon passenger pick-up/drop-off activity at York School, creating traffic congestion and potential concern for children’s safety.

Resolution

As a means of improving safety for children and other road users, and reducing traffic delays on Farnham Avenue in the vicinity of Yonge Street during the weekday afternoon period when children are picked up or dropped off at the York School, staff recommends implementing the following regulations.

- an eastbound left-turn prohibition, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, from Farnham Avenue onto Yonge Street;
- an eastbound straight-through prohibition, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, from Farnham Avenue onto Jackes Avenue; and
- an eastbound left turn prohibition, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, from Farnham Avenue into the first lane west of Yonge Street.

The straight-through prohibition is recommended because some motorists wishing to travel north on Yonge Street may choose to bypass the left-turn prohibition at Yonge Street by travelling across Yonge Street onto Jackes Avenue, where they can make a U-turn, then turn right onto northbound Yonge Street. Motorists waiting for gaps in traffic flow on Yonge Street to make this movement would delay other traffic exiting Farnham Avenue, creating the same condition as currently exists.

Motorists might also choose to bypass the Yonge Street movement restrictions by using the public lane located opposite the school and extending from Farnham Avenue to Balmoral Avenue. By travelling to Balmoral Avenue they could make an eastbound left turn from that street onto Yonge Street. Prohibiting left-turns from Farnham Avenue into this lane is advisable to deter unnecessary traffic from using the lane and contributing to traffic volume on Balmoral Avenue.

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Drawing No. 421F-9216, dated March 2008

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