



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Foxbar Road at Avenue Road – rescind westbound left-turn prohibition

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| 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 |
| Reference Number: | Ts08046te.top.doc |

SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter which Community Council has been delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision. Transportation Services is requesting approval to rescind the westbound left-turn prohibition that currently operates from Foxbar Road onto Avenue Road, from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

The removal of the westbound left-turn prohibition at the intersection of Foxbar Road and Avenue Road will provide residents and other motorists with access to southbound Avenue Road from Foxbar Road during the rush hour periods.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Rescind the “No left-turn, from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., except Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays” regulation on Foxbar Road at Avenue Road.

Financial Impact

| Type of Funding | Source of Funds | Amount |
|---------------------------------|---|----------|
| Available within current budget | Transportation Services Division 2008 Operating Budget interim appropriations | \$200.00 |

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Following a request from the Foxbar Neighbourhood Association, Councillor Michael Walker requested that Transportation Services consider removing the existing westbound left-turn prohibition that operates from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday on Foxbar Road at Avenue Road.

COMMENTS

Road Characteristics

Foxbar Road is a local roadway with a speed limit of 40 km/h. This L-shaped road links St. Clair Avenue West with Avenue Road in the neighbourhood southeast of the Avenue Road/St. Clair Avenue West intersection. Foxbar Road operates two-way between St. Clair Avenue West and a point 75 metres further south, with the remainder of Foxbar Road operating one-way in a south-to-west direction. Foxbar Road forms a "T-type" intersection at Avenue Road. Westbound traffic approach is controlled by a "Stop" sign at Avenue Road. Westbound left-turns are prohibited from Foxbar Road onto Avenue Road from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Avenue Road, in the vicinity of Foxbar Road, is a north-south, major arterial roadway that operates with a maximum speed limit of 50 km/h on a pavement width of 19.5 metres (6 lanes) and has a daily two-way traffic volume of approximately 43,000 vehicles.

There is no TTC service on Foxbar Road. TTC service is provided on Avenue Road with the "5-Avenue Road" and "142-Downtown Express" bus routes. Removal of the westbound left-turn prohibition will not have any impact on TTC service.

History

The existing 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, westbound left-turn prohibition from Foxbar Road onto Avenue Road was implemented in 1962 with the approval of the former City of Toronto Council, in conjunction with the current one-way southbound to westbound regulation on Foxbar Road, between St. Clair Avenue West and Avenue Road. These regulations were initiated by a petition from Foxbar Road residents and intended to reduce the volume of cut-through traffic on Foxbar Road.

Investigation

Transportation Services conducted a traffic study at the subject intersection during the weekday morning and afternoon peak hours and recorded turning movements from Foxbar Road onto Avenue Road. Staff also assessed the difficulty level and any safety issues associated with motorists undertaking illegal westbound left-turn movements.

The study indicated 18 motorists made westbound right-turns and 7 motorists made illegal westbound left-turns onto Avenue Road from Foxbar Road during the 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. period. During the period between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., 29 motorists made

westbound right-turns and 6 motorists made illegal westbound left-turns onto Avenue Road from Foxbar Road. Motorists who chose to make illegal westbound left-turns at this intersection were delayed between 15 and 45 seconds before being able to make the turn because of the volume of traffic on Avenue Road. Motorists seemed to have no difficulties making the turn when gaps in Avenue Road traffic opened up, as visibility up/down Avenue Road is good. Motorists making the illegal westbound left-turn movement did not delay motorists wanting to turn right onto northbound Avenue Road. During a typical weekday off-peak hour, when the westbound left turns are permitted, approximately 15 left turns were made.

A review of the Toronto Police Service collision records revealed that no reported collisions have occurred at the intersection of Foxbar Road and Avenue Road over a three-year period ending December 31, 2007.

Conclusion

Since the implementation of the St. Clair TTC Right-of-Way, motorists are physically unable to turn left from westbound St. Clair Avenue West onto Foxbar Road. The potential for cut-through traffic from St. Clair Avenue West to Avenue Road is no longer a valid concern. Rescinding the existing westbound left-turn prohibition at Avenue Road and Foxbar Road will provide a more convenient exit point for the residents of Foxbar Road and is recommended.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

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