



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

Left-Turn Prohibition - Fairford Avenue and Rhodes Avenue

Date:	July 31, 2008
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District
Wards:	Toronto-Danforth, Ward 30
Reference Number:	Ts08134te.top.doc

SUMMARY

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

Transportation Services is seeking approval to prohibit westbound left turns from Fairford Avenue to Rhodes Avenue between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., Monday to Friday (bicycles excepted). Other drivers are using Rhodes Avenue as a shortcut during the morning.

The westbound left-turn prohibition will reduce traffic on Rhodes Avenue during the weekday morning peak period. An increase in traffic volume on adjacent southbound streets west of Rhodes Avenue could be expected as a result of the turn prohibition.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Prohibit westbound left-turns from Fairford Avenue to Rhodes Avenue between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., Monday to Friday (bicycles excepted).

Financial Impact

Type of Funding	Source of Funds	Amount
Available within current budget	Transportation Services Division 2008 Operating Budget	\$ 250

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Transportation Services reviewed the feasibility of prohibiting westbound left turns from Fairford Avenue on to Rhodes Avenue between 7:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m., Monday to Friday, in response to a request from Councillor Paula Fletcher on behalf of a local resident. The resident expressed a concern about the volume of non-resident commuter traffic traveling southbound on Rhodes Avenue during the morning peak period.

COMMENTS

Fairford Avenue is an east/west collector road operating two-way between the intersection of Coxwell Avenue and the upper branch of Gerrard Street East, and Woodfield Road. Rhodes Avenue is a local road operating one-way southbound between Fairford Avenue and the lower branch of Gerrard Street East, one block west of Coxwell Avenue. Speed humps have been installed along Rhodes Avenue and 30 km/h speed limit signs are posted. Coxwell Avenue, one block east of Rhodes Avenue, forms a north/south connecting link between the upper and lower branches of Gerrard Street East.

Transportation Services conducted a peak eight-hour traffic study during a typical weekday at the intersection of Fairford Avenue and Rhodes Avenue to determine the volume of westbound left turns. Over the period of the study, 860 vehicles made a westbound left turn from Fairford Avenue to Rhodes Avenue, with the peak two-hour volume being recorded between 7:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m., when 447 vehicles made the left turn. The relatively high number of left turns during this morning period suggests that a significant number of vehicles are coming from outside of the local neighbourhood. Commuters to the downtown core area are most likely avoiding southbound delay on Coxwell Avenue by using Rhodes Avenue as an alternate route between the upper and lower branches of Gerrard Street East.

It is feasible to prohibit westbound left turns from Fairford Avenue to Rhodes Avenue between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., Monday to Friday. The turn prohibition would reduce the volume of traffic on Rhodes Avenue during the morning peak period. Residents of Rhodes Avenue would be subject to the left-turn prohibition and as a result, may be required to take an alternate and longer route home during that weekday morning time period.

A westbound left-turn prohibition at Rhodes Avenue will also have an impact on traffic patterns on surrounding neighbourhood streets. Motorists traveling westbound on Fairford Avenue, who would normally make a westbound left turn at Rhodes Avenue, may choose Ashdale Avenue or Woodfield Avenue, to get to Gerrard Street East.

Councillor Fletcher has been consulted and concurs with the recommendation.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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Director, Transportation Services

ATTACHMENT

Drawing No. 421F-9358, dated July 2008

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