

Parking for Buses - Davenport Road, west of Bathurst Street

Date:	September 17, 2008
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District
Wards:	St. Paul's, Ward 21
Reference Number:	Ts08160te.top.doc

SUMMARY

Transportation Services is requesting City Council's approval to designate a "Motor Coach Parking Zone" with parking restricted to buses only for a maximum period of two hours at all times on the north side of Davenport Road, west of Bathurst Street. This will provide a convenient location for Wheeltrans buses to pick up/drop off passengers and school buses/motor coaches to park while passengers visit the "Tollkeeper's Cottage Museum" located in a park on the northwest corner of Bathurst Street and Davenport Road.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that City Council:

1. Rescind the "One hour maximum parking, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Tuesday by buses only" regulation on the north side of Davenport Road, from a point 48 metres west of Bathurst Street to a point 135.3 metres west of Bathurst Street.
2. Prohibit parking at all times on the north side of Davenport Road, from Bathurst Street to a point 48 metres west thereof.
3. Restrict parking to a maximum period of "Two hours by buses only at anytime", on the north side of Davenport Road, from a point 48 metres west of Bathurst Street to a point 20 metres further west thereof.

Financial Impact

Type of funding	Source of funds	Amount
Available within current budget	Toronto Transportation Services 2008 Operating Budget	\$1000

ISSUE BACKGROUND

At the request of Councillor Joe Mihevc, on behalf of the custodian of the Tollkeeper's Cottage museum, located in the parkette on the northwest corner of Bathurst Street and Davenport Road, Transportation Services has investigated providing a parking area exclusively for use by buses bringing passengers to visit this historic building.

COMMENTS

Road Characteristics

Davenport Road is a minor arterial road with a pavement width of about 14.2 metres and eastbound/westbound traffic operation. Bicycle lanes run along both sides of the road, outside of curb lane parking. The "Davenport – 127" TTC bus operates on a limited schedule on this section of Davenport Road.

In 2004, a parking regulation was implemented on the north side of Davenport Road, from a point 48 metres west of Bathurst Street to a point about 87 metres further west that was intended to provide short-duration parking only on Tuesdays (when the museum was open) for school buses bringing children to tour the cottage. Parking is allowed for a maximum of three hours at other times on this section of the street. Permit parking regulations apply overnight.

Investigation

The Tollkeeper's Cottage museum is a heritage building of considerable local significance. It is one of the few remaining examples of its kind in the country and has been restored to its early 19th century appearance, turned into a museum, and relocated to a point near its original site in the Tollkeeper's Park on the northwest corner of the Bathurst/Davenport intersection. The cottage was initially open only on Tuesdays and catered mostly to school groups. However, with more volunteers to conduct tours and higher demand for visitation, the cottage is now open several days each week and is attracting visits from school groups and motor coach/sight-seeing tour groups. The cottage will be fully accessible by disabled persons within a few weeks. Accessible curb cuts, ramps, and pathways are being installed to enable wheelchair access.

The current parking regulation in front of the cottage has benefited buses bringing school groups on Tuesdays to tour the cottage. However, the regulation is unique. Since it applies only one day of the week, motorists who routinely park in this area at other times often forget they should not on Tuesdays. This has resulted in school buses arriving and not being able to park because cars are parked in the area designated for buses. Staff also noted the length of the area currently regulated for parking by buses can accommodate up to 5 full-size buses. This is excessive. The cottage is small and does not generate that

high a demand for parking by buses, nor can it accommodate more than one bus load of passengers at a time.

Resolution

Designating a “Motor Coach Parking Zone” with appropriate advisory signs and implementing a two-hour maximum parking regulation at all times by buses only, is recommended. The parking area would be about 20 metres in length, providing sufficient space for one full-size bus, or two smaller buses. Staff also is installing a curb cut in this area to assist with loading/unloading of disabled passengers.

This will result in the loss of three parking spaces for use by other types of vehicles. Observations indicate this area is infrequently used by permit parkers and that persons working in the area are the predominant users of the parking spaces (typically for durations in excess of the three-hour parking limit). The loss of parking spaces will be a minor inconvenience. To compensate, reducing the current area designated for use by buses by 67 metres will provide 12 additional parking spaces on Tuesdays.

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENT

Drawing No. 421F-9433, dated September 2008

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