



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Exemption from left-turn prohibitions – Queens Quay West

Date:	October 28, 2008
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District
Wards:	Trinity-Spadina, Ward 20
Reference Number:	Ts08174te.top.doc

SUMMARY

Transportation Services is requesting approval to exempt Toronto Fire Service and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) vehicles from the northbound and the westbound left-turn prohibitions on Queens Quay West in front of No. 339 Queens Quay West (Toronto EMS Station No. 36/Toronto Fire Station No. 334) to minimize delays to emergency vehicles.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that City Council:

1. Exempt emergency vehicles from the existing northbound and westbound left-turn prohibitions at the intersection of Queens Quay West and the driveway servicing No. 339 Queens Quay West.

Financial Impact

Type of funding	Source of funds	Amount
Available within current budget	Transportation Services 2008 Operating Budget	\$100.00

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Transportation Services has reviewed a request from the Toronto Fire Service and the Emergency Medical Service to exempt their emergency vehicles from the northbound and westbound left-turn prohibitions at the driveway leading to/from Toronto EMS

Station No. 36/Toronto Fire Station No. 334 (339 Queens Quay West) to minimize delays to emergency vehicles dispatched to cover off shortages in other station areas of the City.

COMMENTS

Road Characteristics

Queens Quay West in the vicinity of No. 339 is a two-way, four-lane, minor arterial road with a speed limit of 50 km/h. The Toronto Transit Commission operates streetcar service on an exclusive transit right-of-way along Queens Quay West. Parking is prohibited at all times on this section of Queens Quay West.

Investigation

The current left-turn prohibitions at some locations along Queens Quay West were implemented upon completion of the Queens Quay exclusive transit right-of-way to prevent turning motorists from encumbering the streetcar track allowance, causing delays to transit service, and potentially causing a collision between a motorist and a streetcar.

In emergency response situations, emergency vehicles may disregard certain traffic regulations, including turn prohibitions, to reduce response time. However, to ensure that all areas of the City are covered by emergency response teams it is sometimes necessary to dispatch paramedic/fire crews from EMS Station No. 36/Fire Station No. 334 to cover off other station areas where crews are currently occupied responding to an emergency. These are considered non-emergency responses when Fire/EMS vehicles are subject to the turn prohibitions. Nevertheless, time is still of the essence when dispatching emergency equipment for coverage in other areas and when equipment is returning to EMS Station No. 36/Fire Station No. 334. The current left-turn prohibitions potentially increase the redeployment and return times.

Resolution

Based on staff's investigation, which included consultation with staff in suburban districts of the City, the situation impacting emergency vehicles at Station No. 36/Fire Station No. 334 on Queens Quay is unique. However, it is not the intent of the left-turn prohibitions on Queens Quay West to adversely impact Fire/EMS operations, whether in an emergency or non-emergency scenario. The Toronto Transit Commission has advised they have no objection to exempting movements across the streetcar right-of-way by emergency vehicles. Therefore, staff recommends exempting "emergency vehicles" from the northbound and westbound left-turn prohibitions at the intersection of Queens Quay West and the driveway servicing No. 339 Queens Quay West.

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SIGNATURE

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Director, Transportation Services

ATTACHMENTS

Drawing No. 421F-9471, dated October 2008

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