



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

St. Clair Avenue West, between Old Weston Road and Gunns Road/Old Stock Yards Road – Road Alterations for the St. Clair Avenue West Transit Improvement Project

Date:	March 2, 2009
To:	Etobicoke York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services - Etobicoke York District
Wards:	Ward 11 York South-Weston & Ward 17 – Davenport
Report Number:	p:\2009\Cluster B\TRA\EtobicokeYork\eycc090057-to

SUMMARY

Transportation Services is seeking authority to introduce road alteration by-laws on St. Clair Avenue West from Old Weston Road to Gunns Road/Old Stock Yards Road, to allow for the construction and implementation of the St. Clair Avenue West Transit Improvement Project as approved by City Council.

Since the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) is the operator of the St. Clair Avenue West Transit Route, City Council approval of this report will be required. The Toronto Transit Commission staff has been fully engaged on this project and is supportive of the recommendations contained in this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that City Council:

1. Authorize the preparation of a by-law for the alteration of St. Clair Avenue West, between Old Weston Road and Gunns Road/Old Stock Yards Road, to allow construction of the Preferred Design Concept identified through the St. Clair Avenue West Transit Improvements Class Environmental Assessment study process. The modifications are generally as shown on Drawing Nos. 421F-9594, 421F-9595, 421F-9596, 421F-9597 and 421F-9598 dated March 2009, include:

- a) Construction of a raised, mountable trackbed in the centre of St. Clair Avenue West, between signalized intersections, with curbs as required, for the exclusive use of public transit vehicles and emergency service vehicles, including Police, Fire, and Emergency Medical Services;
 - b) Widening portions of the pavement up to 2.8 metres, on the north and south sides of St. Clair Avenue West between Old Weston Road and Gunns Road/Old Stock Yards Road; and, widening the pavement up to 7 metres for the section on the south side of St. Clair Avenue West between Old Weston Road to just west of Old Weston Road, generally as shown on Drawing Nos. 421F-9594, 421F-9595, 421F-9596, 421F-9597 and 421F-9598 dated March 2009.
2. Authorize the installation of the proposed streetcar loading platforms on St. Clair Avenue West, between Old Weston Road and Gunns Road/Old Stock Yards Road, listed in the attached Appendix “A”.

Financial Impact

All costs associated with the road alterations have been accommodated in the St. Clair Avenue West Transit Improvement Project budget.

DECISION HISTORY

City Council, at its meeting of September 28, 29, and 30 and October 1, 2004, adopted, as amended, Clause No.1 of the Policy and Finance Committee Report No. 7, entitled “St. Clair Avenue West Transit Improvement Environmental Assessment – Yonge Street to Gunns Road (Just West of Keele Street) (St. Paul’s, Davenport, York South-Weston).”

City Council, at its meeting held on June 23 and 24, 2008, approved the Road Alterations and Traffic Regulations for the St. Clair West Transit Improvement Project, for the section between Caledonia Road/Caledonia Park Road and Vaughan Road (the section between Caledonia Road/Caledonia Park Road and Winona Drive, being in the Etobicoke York Community Council District).

City Council, at its meeting held on February 23 and 24, 2009, approved the Road Alterations for the St. Clair West Transit Improvement Project, for the section between Caledonia Road/Caledonia Park Road and Old Weston Road.

This report seeks authority for the Road Alteration By-law for the section of the St. Clair Avenue West Transit Improvement Project, between Old Weston Road and Gunns Road/Old Stock Yards Road.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The St. Clair Avenue West Transit Improvement Environmental Assessment noted above, approved by City Council, incorporated a Preferred Design Concept, the principal elements of which are as follows:

- two centre lanes reserved for exclusive use by streetcars (and emergency vehicles) protected by a raised, but mountable trackbed;
- during peak periods, two general purpose traffic lanes in each direction, located on either side of the streetcar tracks, providing sufficient capacity to accommodate all current peak period traffic volumes on St. Clair Avenue West;
- during off-peak periods and weekends, one general purpose traffic lane and one parking lane in each direction providing sufficient capacity to accommodate all current off-peak and weekend traffic volumes;
- left-turn lanes at signalized intersections to permit left-turns and U-turns on their own exclusive signal phase;
- on-street parking on both sides of the street during off-peak times on weekdays and at all times on weekends to be allowed in the majority of the curb lanes, and new off-street parking, resulting in a net increase in the parking supply along St. Clair Avenue West; and
- enhanced streetscape, urban design, streetcar shelters and platforms, public art and safety features in the overall design and implementation of the transit improvements project.

Also contained within the approved recommendations was a recommendation that “approval be granted in principle for the traffic by-laws required to implement this project...”(Recommendation (8) contained within the report from the Commissioner of Urban Development Services, the Acting Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services, the Chief General Manager of the Toronto Transit Commission, (TTC) and the President, Toronto Parking Authority, dated August 31, 2004).

COMMENTS

The section of the St. Clair West Transit Improvement Project between Caledonia Road/Caledonia Park Road and Westmount Avenue commenced in 2007 and the bulk of the work was completed in 2008. The section from Westmount Avenue to Winona Drive is planned for implementation in 2009. This work has already been authorized by City Council.

In February 2009, City Council approved the Road Alteration By-law for the section between Caledonia Road/Caledonia Park Drive and Old Weston Road. Work on this segment will be undertaken this year with the majority of the detailed design work now complete for the section between Old Weston Road and Gunns Road/Old Stock Yards Road, Transportation Services is seeking approval in this report, for the Road Alteration By-law required for construction of this section of the Transit Project later in 2009.

Road Alterations

The necessary road alterations are detailed in Drawing Nos. 421F-9594, 421F-9595, 421F-9596, 421F-9597 and 421F-9598 dated March 2009 (Etobicoke York Community Council area), attached to this report. They include:

- a raised mountable trackbed in the centre of St. Clair Avenue West, between the signalized intersections. This raised trackbed will be reserved for TTC transit vehicles and emergency services vehicles only;
- wider, far-side platforms at signalized intersections along this section of St. Clair Avenue West. This involves relocation of the existing nearside platforms or reconstruction of existing far-side platforms; and
- pavement widening at various locations within the vicinity of the signalized intersections. These widenings are required to accommodate the track allowance and platforms, the left-turn/U-turn lane and two through lanes for each direction approaching the intersection. No widenings are proposed between intersections.

Streetcar Loading Platforms

Streetcar loading platforms will be located to the far side of the intersections (with the exception of the eastbound platform at Weston Road/Keele Street), as listed in the attached (Appendix “A”). This will allow for improved transit service and patron accessibility, and more efficient general intersection operations. The far-side platforms minimize the pavement widening required at the intersections to allow for left-turn/U-turn storage lanes. No streetcar loading platforms are being proposed for the intersection of St. Clair Avenue West and Gunns Road/Old Stock Yards Road, since the service stops will be at the proposed streetcar loop at the north-west quadrant of the intersection.

CONCLUSION

Approval of the recommendations for road alteration by-laws on St. Clair Avenue West, between Old Weston Road and Gunns Road/Old Stock Yards Road, will allow for the construction and implementation of the next phase of the St. Clair Avenue West Transit Improvement Project as approved by City Council.

The associated traffic regulation amendments will be the subject of a future report to the Etobicoke York Community council.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A– Streetcar Platforms to be removed

Appendix B – Streetcar Platforms to be installed

Attachment 1	Drawing No. 421F-9594 dated March 2009 Proposed curb modifications (St. Clair Avenue West, between Old Weston Road and Gunns Road/Old Stock Yards Road – Sheet 1 of 5)
Attachment 2	Drawing No. 421F-9595 dated March 2009 Proposed curb modifications (St. Clair Avenue West, between Old Weston Road and Gunns Road/Old Stock Yards Road – Sheet 2 of 5)
Attachment 3	Drawing No. 421F-9596 dated March 2009 Proposed curb modifications (St. Clair Avenue West, between Old Weston Road and Gunns Road/Old Stock Yards Road – Sheet 3 of 5)
Attachment 4	Drawing No. 421F-9597 dated March 2009 Proposed curb modifications (St. Clair Avenue West, between Old Weston Road and Gunns Road/Old Stock Yards Road – Sheet 4 of 5)
Attachment 5	Drawing No. 421F-9598 dated March 2009 Proposed curb modifications (St. Clair Avenue West, between Old Weston Road and Gunns Road/Old Stock Yards Road – Sheet 5 of 5)

Appendix “A”

“Streetcar Loading Platforms” – To Be Installed

Highway	Location	
St. Clair Avenue West	North Side	Immediately west of Old Weston Road
St. Clair Avenue West	South Side	Immediately east of Old Weston Road
St. Clair Avenue West	North Side	Immediately west of Weston Road
St. Clair Avenue West	South Side	Immediately west of Keele Street