



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

Royal York Road and Eglinton Avenue West – Lane Designation

Date:	May 4, 2009
To:	Etobicoke York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services - Etobicoke York District
Wards:	Ward 4 – Etobicoke Centre
Reference Number:	p:\2009\Cluster B\TRA\EtobicokeYork\eycc090082-to

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval to remove the southbound exclusive right turn lane on Royal York Road at Eglinton Avenue West. An increase in the southbound traffic volume combined with the introduction of a northbound left turn advance arrow has resulted in congestion on Royal York Road, specifically in the afternoon peak period. As a result, allowing a southbound through lane and a southbound through/right turn lane is an attempt to relieve some of this congestion.

Since the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates transit service on Royal York Road, City Council approval of this report is required. TTC staff has been consulted on this issue and has not objected to this proposal.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that City Council approve:

1. Rescinding the regulation that the southbound curb lane on Royal York Road at Eglinton Avenue West be designated for right turning vehicles only, buses excepted, from Eglinton Avenue West to a point 30.5 metres northerly thereof

Financial Impact

Type of Funding	Source of Funds	Amount
Available within current budget	Transportation Services Operating Budget	\$100.00

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Transportation Services staff received a request and met separately on site with both Councillor Rob Ford, Ward 2, as well as Councillor Gloria Lindsay Luby, Ward 4, to discuss traffic congestion southbound on Royal York Road at Eglinton Avenue West in the afternoon peak. A map of the area is Attachment 1.

COMMENTS

Royal York Road is classified as a minor arterial road and Eglinton Avenue West is classified as a major arterial road. The intersection is controlled by traffic control signals. A left turn lane, one through lane and one exclusive right turn lane currently exist for southbound traffic on Royal York Road at Eglinton Avenue West. Bus stops for Royal York Road are currently located on the southeast and northwest corners of the intersection. The current speed limit is 50 km/h on Royal York Road. The TTC operates bus service on this road.

A report was previously presented to Etobicoke York Community Council in January 2006, further to a request of Councillor Gloria Lindsay Luby, on behalf of a constituent, to designate the southbound curb lane on Royal York Road at both Eglinton Avenue West and Lawrence Avenue West/The Westway for the exclusive use of vehicles wishing to turn right. Staff supported this request and these regulations were ultimately approved by City Council.

Prior to the installation of this regulation, lane utilization studies were conducted producing the following results at the intersection of Royal York Road at Eglinton Avenue West:

Date: September 27, 2005
Time: 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Southbound Movement	Volume	Percentage
Through from centre lane	450	67 %
Through from curb lane	95	14 %
Right from curb lane	126	19 %

Our observations concluded that, at times, southbound right turning motorists were delayed by the through vehicles within the curb lane waiting for the green indication. Also, it appeared that most of these through motorists using the curb lane were aware that the lane was not continuous for a long distance beyond the intersection and were attempting to jump the queue of vehicles waiting at the intersection. We observed that in some cases, these vehicles, when attempting to merge, would create congestion to the south of the intersection.

At the time, we also indicated that from our observations, designating the southbound curb lane exclusively for right turns would not have a significant impact on southbound through motorists, while reducing the potential for delays of southbound right turning vehicles.

To quantify the need for retaining or removing the exclusive right turn designation on Royal York Road at Eglinton Avenue West, staff has conducted additional studies at this intersection. The results of this study are as follows:

Date: December 3, 2008
Time: 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Southbound Movement	Volume	Percentage
Through from centre lane	555	76%
Through from curb lane	42*	6%
Right from curb lane	130	18%

* illegal movement

When the exclusive right turn lane was initially installed southbound on Royal York Road at Eglinton Avenue West, we did not notice the same back-up of traffic that has been noticed over the last year. What has contributed to this back-up is the overall increase in southbound traffic on Royal York Road, as shown in the above tables, combined with the addition of a northbound left turn arrow which, although required, does take green time away from the southbound traffic. As such, the congestion has increased southbound on Royal York Road to the point that the queue is beyond the signals to the north at La Rose Avenue.

To try to mitigate this back-up, we are recommending the removal of the southbound exclusive right turn lane to try to relieve the congestion.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Map