



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

**Dixon Grove Junior Middle School, 315 The Westway –
Turn Prohibition**

Date:	August 12, 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\eycc090106-to

SUMMARY

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

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval to prohibit left turns at anytime for vehicles exiting the Parent Safety Program (P.S.P) loop located on The Westway at Dixon Grove School, 315 The Westway.

The proposed turn prohibition will prevent vehicles from turning left when exiting the drop-off loop, reducing potential queues and congestion within the loop. Approval of this report will result in “No Left Turn” signs being posted for vehicles exiting the P.S.P loop.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that Etobicoke York Community Council approve:

1. Enacting a “No Left Turn” anytime prohibition for vehicles exiting the school driveway located on The Westway approximately 64 metres west of Kipling Avenue.

Financial Impact

Type of Funding	Source of Funds	Amount
Available within current budget	Transportation Services Operating Budget	\$300.00

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Transportation Services staff received a request from the principal of Dixon Grove Junior Middle School, located at 315 The Westway, to prohibit motorists from making a left turn when exiting the P.S.P. loop. This request is intended to reduce congestion within the loop. To quantify concerns, studies were conducted by Transportation Services staff in the area of Dixon Grove Junior Middle School. A map of the area is Attachment 1.

COMMENTS

Dixon Grove Junior Middle School (JMS) is located on the southwest corner of The Westway and Kipling Avenue. All driveway access points, including the loop in which the P.S.P. program is operating, are located along The Westway frontage. Currently, a “No Left Turn” sign, which was installed by the school board, is located at the exit point of the loop. The speed limit on The Westway in the area of the school is 40 km/h while Kipling Avenue has a speed limit of 50 km/h. Sidewalks are located on both sides of both streets. The intersection of Kipling Avenue and The Westway is controlled by traffic control signals and a pedestrian crossover is located on The Westway near the west limit of the school property at Celestine Drive.

To quantify concerns, studies were conducted during the morning and afternoon peaks in which the number of vehicles entering and exiting the loop, as well as their direction of travel was recorded. Furthermore, we conducted general observations, which included noting the number and location of vehicles dropping-off or picking-up students on The Westway, the number of U-turns in the area of the school and instances of turning vehicles blocking traffic on The Westway.

During our morning studies, a total of 149 vehicles were recorded entering the loop in which the P.S.P. operates. Of these, 25 vehicles were recorded as turning left when exiting, disobeying the school board installed “No Left Turn” sign. In addition, six vehicles were recorded as dropping-off students on The Westway. Although it was noted that traffic did back up within the loop on several occasions during the morning peak, they were for a short duration and then would clear with minimal impacts to The Westway. In order to accommodate the significant traffic using the loop, it is imperative the traffic exiting the loop does so with minimal delays. Although some drivers did ignore the “No Left Turn” sign when exiting the loop, the majority of motorists did comply.

During the afternoon peak the school does not participate in the P.S.P. program. Caregivers begin to arrive more than ½ hour prior to dismissal and by 2:55 p.m. a total of 10 vehicles were recorded waiting within the loop. This left approximately one spot along the curb within the loop. By dismissal time the loop was full of vehicles, including some motorists using the driveway lay-by, despite this area being blocked off with barrels.

During the afternoon peak a total of 47 vehicles used the loop, of which 17 turned left when exiting. An additional 11 vehicles were recorded parking on The Westway. It was also noted that vehicles wishing to enter the loop would queue on The Westway and in some cases; a vehicle wishing to turn left into the loop would commence their turn but be unable to enter the loop, blocking both lanes of eastbound traffic on The Westway. Since the on site parking at the school is limited, caregivers do utilize the church parking lot, located on the east side of Kipling Avenue directly opposite the school and walk over to the school to pick up children.

Based on our observations, we would recommend legalizing the existing “No Left Turn” prohibition for northbound traffic exiting the loop at Dixon Grove JMS. Legalizing the “No Left Turn” prohibition will help mitigate vehicle traffic congestion in the area of the school.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Map