



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Proposed Traffic Control Signals: 285 Cummer Avenue (St. John's Rehabilitation Centre)

Date:	May 8, 2009
To:	North York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Division, North York District
Wards:	Ward 24 – Willowdale
Reference Number:	<i>ny09032</i>

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval for the installation of traffic control signals at 285 Cummer Avenue at St. John's Rehabilitation Centre.

Traffic studies reveal that a pedestrian crossover is warranted; however a safety review indicates that this location is not a suitable location for a pedestrian crossover. As a result, traffic control signals should be installed.

Since the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates a transit service on Cummer Avenue, City Council approval of this report is required. TTC staff has been consulted on the proposed signal installation and have not objected to the proposal.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services Division, North York District, recommends that City Council:

1. Approve the installation of traffic control signals at the intersection of 285 Cummer Avenue (access to St. John's Rehabilitation Centre); and
2. Pass or amend the appropriate by-law(s) accordingly.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The financial cost of installing these new traffic control signals is approximately \$106,000.00 of which funds in the amount of \$10,000.00 are being provided by St. John's Rehabilitation Centre. The net funding of \$96,000.00 for these signals is available in Transportation Services Division Capital Works Budget under project No. CTP709-01.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Transportation Services Division, North York District has received numerous complaints from residents regarding pedestrian crossing difficulties on Cummer Avenue between Willowdale Avenue and Maxome Avenue, mostly related to TTC transit stop activities in this area.

COMMENTS

The following characteristics describe the operating characteristics and adjacent land uses on Cummer Avenue in this area:

- Cummer Avenue is a two-lane minor arterial roadway.
- Cummer Avenue has a posted speed limit of 50 kilometres per hour (km/h) and a daily traffic volume of approximately 14,000 vehicles per day (vpd).
- In this area traffic control signals are located on Cummer Avenue at Willowdale Avenue to the west and at Maxome Avenue to the east.
- Sidewalks are located on both sides of Cummer Avenue.
- Toronto Transit Commission bus stops for both the eastbound and westbound directions are provided at two locations along Cummer Avenue, opposite 175 Cummer Avenue and 285 Cummer Avenue.
- Willowdale Manor (Seniors Home) is situated at 175 Cummer Avenue.
- Cummer Lodge (Home for the Aged) is situated at 205 Cummer Avenue.
- The Sisterhood of St. John the Divine is situated at 233 Cummer Avenue.
- The St. John's Rehabilitation Centre is situated at 285 Cummer Avenue. The access for the centre forms a t-type intersection presently controlled by a stop sign for centre traffic.

Pedestrian Crossover Warrant Study

Transportation Services staff conducted a pedestrian Crossover Warrant Study in this area of Cummer Avenue. Using pedestrian volumes recorded over the peak eight hours of a typical weekday the following results were obtained:

Pedestrian Crossover Warrant	Compliance Level
Pedestrian Volume	134%
Pedestrian Delays	125%

For a pedestrian crossover to be numerically justified, both the “Pedestrian Volume” and “Pedestrian Delays” warrants must be 100% satisfied.

As outlined in the above table, both warrants have been satisfied. From our studies the most suitable location for a Pedestrian Crossover would be in the vicinity of the access to 285 Cummer Avenue (St. John’s Rehabilitation Centre). The access for St. John’s Rehabilitation Centre is located 440 m west of Willowdale Avenue and 240 m west of Maxome Avenue. However, a review of the design standards, or “environmental standards” for pedestrian crossovers, which describe a roadway environment suitable for this type of control (and exposure factors, which would make a pedestrian crossover unsuitable or potentially unsafe) revealed that a pedestrian crossover would not be a suitable form of pedestrian crossing protection in this location. This is due to the fact our study shows a significant amount of turning movements at this driveway access that could be potentially unsafe with the installation of a pedestrian crossover. Accordingly, upgraded crossing protection in the form of traffic control signals is appropriate for this location.

Collision History

A review of the Toronto Police Service collision records for the five-year period ending December 31, 2008 revealed the following history in this area of Cummer Avenue:

Five-Year Collision Information	Number of Reported Collision					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Total Collision	5	2	5	4	8	24
Collisions Potentially Preventable by the installation of traffic control Signals	0	0	0	1	2	3
Collisions Involving Pedestrians	0	0	2	0	0	2

In summary, studies indicate that there are sufficient pedestrian crossing volumes to justify the installation of a pedestrian crossover on Cummer Avenue. The most suitable location for such a device is in the vicinity of 285 Cummer Avenue. However, since this device would not be a suitable form of pedestrian crossing protection at this location given the roadway environment, traffic control signals should be installed.

Accordingly, the resultant installation is expected to improve safety for pedestrians and TTC riders crossing Cummer Avenue as well as for motorists at the driveway access and should not have a significant impact on the operation of this minor arterial roadway. Additionally the St. John's Rehabilitation Centre has offered to provide funds in the amount of \$10,000.00 towards the installation of these traffic control signals.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment: Map – Proposed Traffic Control Signal: 285 Cummer Av (*ny09032_map*)