



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Extension of Taxicab Stand – Front Street West, south side, between York Street and Bay Street

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Date: | March 5, 2009 |
| To: | Toronto and East York Community Council |
| From: | Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District |
| Wards: | Toronto Centre-Rosedale, Ward 28 |
| Reference Number: | Ts09048te.top.doc |

SUMMARY

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

The installation of hoarding due to construction at Union Station has resulted in the closure of the west access and consequently transferred all pedestrian activity at Union Station to the main entrance located midblock between York Street and Bay Street.

Transportation Services is seeking authority to extend the easterly limit of the existing 15-vehicle taxicab stand, which is provided on the south side of Front Street West east of York Street, closer to this main entrance. The proposed extension of the taxicab stand will serve passengers of Union Station more effectively and will provide four additional taxicab spaces with a corresponding decrease in available spaces for pick-up and drop-off by the general public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Amend the existing Taxicab Stand regulation on the south side of Front Street West, between a point 24.8 metres east of York Street and a point 110.3 metres east of York Street, to operate on the south side of Front Street West, between a point 24.8 metres east of York Street and a point 132.3 metres east of York Street.

Financial Impact

| Type of Funding | Source of Funds | Amount |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------|
| Available within current budget | Transportation Services Division Interim 2009 Operating Budget | \$ 500.00 |

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The west entrance of Union Station is under construction. As part of this work, hoarding has been installed across the westernmost frontage of Union Station on the south side of Front Street West. This hoarding has impeded the visibility of taxis by patrons exiting Union Station as all passengers must now exit at the main (centre) doors. This has led to concerns about the efficiency of the existing taxicab stand.

Transportation Services, in consultation with Councillor Pam McConnell, has reviewed the feasibility of relocating the easterly end of the existing 15-vehicle taxicab stand so that it is visible to passengers exiting the main doors of Union Station during construction.

COMMENTS

Union Station is situated on the south side of Front Street West, between York Street and Bay Street. Front Street West is a 4-lane two-way major arterial road. There is no TTC service on Front Street West, between York Street and Bay Street. The intersections of Front Street West and York Street/University Avenue, and Front Street West and Bay Street, are controlled by traffic control signals.

The following parking controls are in effect on the south side of Front Street West, between York Street and Bay Street (from west to east):

- No Standing (Corner Prohibition) – to a point 24.8 metres east of York Street;
- Taxi Stand (15 vehicles) – from 24.8 metres east of York Street to a point 110.3 metres east of York Street;
- Union Station Passenger Drop-off and Pick-up – from 110.3 metres east of York Street to a point 155.3 metres east of York Street;
- Disabled Loading Zone – from 155.3 metres east of York Street to a point 166.3 metres east of York Street;
- Union Station Bus Passenger Drop-off and Pick-up – from 166.3 metres east of York Street to a point 203.3 metres east of York Street;
- Taxi Stand (5 vehicles) – from 203.3 metres east of York Street to a point 234.8 metres east of York Street; and
- No Standing (Corner Prohibition) – from 234.8 metres east of York Street to Bay Street.

The installation of hoarding due to construction at Union Station has resulted in the closure of the west access and consequently transferred all pedestrian activity to Union Station at the main entrance (located midblock between York Street and Bay Street).

The hoarding has also reduced the visibility of the 15-vehicle taxicab stand, which occupies the south curb side of Union Station, east of York Street to passengers exiting Union Station.

The 15-vehicle Taxi Stand on the south side of Front Street West could be extended by reducing the existing 'Union Station Passenger Drop-off and Pick-up' area by 22 metres (from 45 metres to 23 metres) resulting in 4 additional taxicab spaces. The 'Union Station Passenger Drop-off and Pick-up' area will still accommodate approximately 4 vehicles.

This change will increase curb side space for taxis and locate the taxicab stand closer to passengers exiting Union Station. This change would remain in effect for the duration of the construction period, and no significant impacts to traffic operations on Front Street West in this vicinity are anticipated. There will be less curb space available for the general public within the existing 'Union Station Passenger Drop-off and Pick-up' area.

This phase of construction at Union Station is expected to be complete by approximately December 2009. At that time, Transportation Services will reassess the parking regulations at Union Station to ensure the needs of taxis, buses and the general public are being accommodated.

CONTACT

Troy Caron, Transportation Technologist
Traffic Operations, Toronto and East York District
Phone: 416-338-5452; Fax: 416-392-1920
e-mail: tcaron@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Peter Noehammer, P.Eng.
Director, Transportation Services

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Drawing No. 421F-9586, dated March 2009

P:\2009\Cluster B\TRA\Toronto and East York District\TOP\ts09048te.top.doc – cag