

Proposed lay-by – University Avenue at Osgoode Hall

Date:	March 23, 2009
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District
Wards:	Trinity-Spadina, Ward 20 Toronto Centre-Rosedale, Ward 27
Reference Number:	Ts09061te.top.doc

SUMMARY

Transportation Services is requesting approval from City Council for construction of a lay-by on the east side of University Avenue, north of Queen Street West for 130 Queen Street West (Osgoode Hall).

Construction of this lay-by is proposed to provide an area off the traveled portion of University Avenue to facilitate curb side access for Wheel-Trans vehicles and their passengers attending Osgoode Hall.

As the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates a transit service on University Avenue, City Council approval is required. The proposed lay-by will not impact transit service.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that City Council:

1. Approve the widening of University Avenue, from a width of about 13.7 metres to a width of about 16.4 metres by the construction of a lay-by on the east side of University Avenue, from a point 41 metres north of Queen Street West to a point 13 metres further north, generally as shown on the attached print of Drawing Nos. LB-01 and LB-02, dated September 2008.
2. Rescind the “No Stopping 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday to Friday except Public Holidays on the east side of University Avenue from Richmond Street West to College Street.

3. Prohibit stopping from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday to Friday except Public Holidays on the east side of University Avenue from Richmond Street West to a point 41 metres north of Queen Street West and from a point 54 metres north of Queen Street West to College Street.
4. Designate a loading zone for a disabled person on the east side of University Avenue from a point 41 metres north of Queen Street West to a point 13 metres further north.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

All costs associated with the construction of the lay-by and changes to signs regulating parking, in the estimated amount of \$14,000.00, is the responsibility of the property owner Ontario Realty Corporation.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The architectural firm of “Taylor Hazell Architects Ltd”, working on behalf of the Ontario Realty Corporation, requested that Transportation Services designate a disabled loading zone on the east side of University Avenue, just north of Queen Street West, as part of the new barrier free upgrades associated with Osgoode Hall located at 130 Queen Street West. In conjunction with the implementation of this disabled loading zone, a lay-by will also be constructed in order to maintain unobstructed traffic flow on University Avenue during pick-up and drop-off periods.

COMMENTS

Current conditions

Premises No. 130 Queen Street West (Osgoode Hall) is located on the north/east corner of Queen Street West and University Avenue, occupies six acres and is home to the Court of Appeal for Ontario, the Superior Court of Justice, and the Law Society of Upper Canada.

University Avenue between Queen Street West and Armoury Street is classified as a major arterial roadway that operates in a north/south direction. Each direction of travel accommodates four lanes of traffic, separated by a 15 metre wide median/boulevard. The speed limit on University Avenue is 50km/h. University Avenue also accommodates a transit route, Bus Route 142. A 6.6 metre wide concrete sidewalk is located on the University Avenue flankage of Osgoode Hall, and a 3.5 metre wide concrete sidewalk is located on Queen Street West.

The signed parking regulations on the east side of University Avenue, between Queen Street West and Armoury Street are as follows:

- Pay & Display parking operates for a maximum period of three hours from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; and two and a half hours from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Saturday and 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sunday;

- Stopping is prohibited from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., and 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday to Friday;
- Standing is prohibited at all times from Queen Street West to a point 56 metres further north (TTC Bus Stop); and
- Maximum 3-hour parking at all other times

Proposal

The plan proposes construction of a lay-by, 2.7 metres in width, on the east side of University Avenue, from a point 41 metres north of Queen Street West to a point 13 metres further north, generally as shown on the attached print of Drawing Nos. LB-01 and LB-02, dated September 2008. The proposed lay-by will provide two parking spaces, require a 2.7 metre widening of the roadway, and the existing concrete sidewalk will be narrowed from 6.6 metres to 3.9 metres. In addition, there will be no loss of parking on this section of University Avenue as a result of this proposal.

In general, there are concerns about the installation of lay-bys. They sometimes result in a reduction in the width of the boulevard/sidewalk, negatively impact pedestrians by redirecting them from their normal walking course (a particular concern for people who are blind or have limited vision), and are sometimes considered an inappropriate use of City infrastructure. In this case, however, there is enough sidewalk width to accommodate a lay-by without negatively impacting pedestrians.

This proposal will provide an area off the traveled portion of the road where Wheel - Trans and their passengers can be safely picked up or dropped off near the entrance to Osgoode Hall. Parking will not interfere with the flow of traffic and in this instance, the lay-by will help improve barrier free access for the disabled attending Osgoode Hall.

Of note, this disabled loading zone could also be utilized by any vehicle displaying a valid disabled person parking permit while actively engaged in picking-up or dropping-off a disabled person, but does not permit a vehicle displaying a disabled parking permit to park at this location.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Peter Noehammer, P.Eng.
Director, Transportation Services

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Drawing Nos. LB-01 and LB-02, dated September 2008

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