



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

School Zone – Withrow Avenue

Date:	April 21, 2009
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District
Wards:	Toronto-Danforth, Ward 30
Reference Number:	Ts09079te.top.doc

SUMMARY

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

At its March 26, 2009 meeting Toronto and East York Community Council referred back Transportation Services February 17, 2009 report respecting the student pick-up and drop-off zone for Withrow Avenue Public school and requested that a report be submitted to its May 14, 2009, meeting on changing the recommended operating time frame from “September 1 of one year through June 30 of the next following year, inclusive” to “Labour Day to the end of the school year”.

Transportation Services is requesting approval to make a minor change to the existing parking regulations on the south side of Withrow Avenue to allow parking within the student pick-up and drop-off zone on public holidays and during the summer break period (July 1st through Labour Day).

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Adjust the 10 minute maximum parking regulation on the south side of Withrow Avenue between a point 395 metres west of Logan Avenue and a point 65 metres further west thereof, to operate from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, except public holidays, from Labour Day of one year through June 30 of the next following year, inclusive.

2. Adjust the parking prohibition on the south side of Withrow Avenue, between a point 395 metres west of Logan Avenue and a point 65 metres further west thereof, to operate from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, except public holidays, from Labour Day of one year through June 30 of the next following year, inclusive.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

In response to a request from a local resident to allow parking in the Withrow Avenue Public School student pick-up and drop-off zone on days when school is not in session, Transportation Services submitted a report to the March 26, 2009, meeting of Toronto and East York Community Council (Item TE 24.92 entitled "School Zone – Withrow Avenue). The report recommended changing the operating time frame of the student pick-up and drop-off to "September 1 of one year through June 30 of the next following year, inclusive" and to exclude public holidays.

At its March meeting, Toronto and East York Community Council, referred the report back and requested the Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District, report to its May 14, 2009, meeting on changing the operating time frame of the Withrow Avenue Public School student pick-up and drop-off zone from "September 1 of one year through June 30 of the next following year, inclusive" to "Labour Day to the end of the school year".

COMMENTS

Withrow Avenue, between Broadview Avenue and Logan Avenue, is a local road operating one-way westbound with a pavement width of 6.4 metres. Withrow Avenue Public School is located on the north side of the street and a student pick-up and drop-off zone is located opposite the school on the south side of the street fronting Premises Nos. 7 to 21 Withrow Avenue. The parking regulations on Withrow Avenue, between Broadview Avenue and Logan Avenue, are as follows:

North side

- stopping is prohibited between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday from a point 285 metres west of Logan Avenue to a point 186 metres further west (fronting the school);
- parking is otherwise prohibited at all times;

South side

- within the student pick-up and drop-off zone, located between a point 395 metres west of Logan Avenue and a point 65 metres further west, parking is allowed for a maximum period of 10 minutes between 8:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday;
- parking is prohibited within the student pick-up drop-off zone between 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., and between 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday to Friday; and
- parking is otherwise allowed for a maximum period of three hours, outside of the hours of permit parking operation between 12:01 a.m. and 7:00 a.m., daily.

The TTC does not operate transit service on Withrow Avenue.

The Withrow Avenue student pick-up and drop-off zone parking regulations are in force Monday to Friday throughout the entire year. Traditionally most public schools are not in session during summer break period, March break, winter break (between Christmas and New Years) and on public holidays.

Allowing parking within the student pick-up and drop-off zone during March break, winter break, or other times that the school is not in session, such as professional development days, would be problematic. These holidays do not occur on an annual basis on specific dates and vary between schools. Implementing a by-law each year to create an exemption would not be reasonable. Further, the wording that would be needed on the required regulatory signage would be lengthy and confusing to most motorists.

Transportation Services, in consultation with Legal Services, has reviewed Toronto and East York Community Council's request to change the operating time frame of the Withrow Avenue student pick-up and drop-off zone to "Labour Day to end of school year" as opposed to "September 1 of one year through June 30 of the next following year, inclusive" as recommended in our earlier report.

In order to be effective and clear, by-laws must be specific and not uncertain. Though the actual date of Labour Day changes from year to year, it is a well known and publicized statutory public holiday that is scheduled annually as the first Monday in September. Using the wording "Labour Day" rather than September 1st, is acceptable.

The wording "end of the school year" is not specific or clear. The end of the school year varies amongst school districts and is not necessarily common public knowledge. Given that the terminology "end of school year" is uncertain, its use within the context of the proposed by-law amendment is not recommended.

CONTACT

Brian Holditch, Transportation Technologist
Traffic Operations, Toronto and East York District
Phone: (416) 338-5428; Fax: (416) 392-1920
e-mail: bholditc@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Peter Noehammer, P.Eng.
Director, Transportation Services

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

(1) Drawing No. 421F-9635, dated April 2009

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