



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Road Alterations – Leslie Street and Commissioners Street

Date:	April 27, 2009
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District
Wards:	Toronto-Danforth, Ward 30 Beaches-East York, Ward 32
Reference Number:	Ts09075te.top.doc

SUMMARY

Transportation Services is seeking authority from City Council to modify the roadways at the intersection of Leslie Street and Commissioners Street. We are proposing to realign the curb of the shared driveway serving the Asbridges Bay Treatment Plant and Transportation Services yard, located on the east side of Leslie Street opposite Commissioners Street, to enable trucks to turn right onto Leslie Street safely. Also, we are proposing to narrow the pavement width of Commissioners Street, at Leslie Street, to enhance the pedestrian and cyclist environment. These improvements will be constructed in conjunction with Waterfront Toronto's Leslie Greening Project, Phase 2.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that City Council approve:

1. Modifications to the north curb line of the shared driveway on the east side of Leslie Street at Commissioners Street; and the narrowing of Commissioners Street, on the west side of Leslie Street, generally as shown on the attached print of Drawing No. 421F-9636 dated April 2009.

Financial Impact

All costs associated with the proposed intersection improvements for Leslie and Commissioners Streets will be the responsibility of Waterfront Toronto in connection with Phase 2 of the Leslie Greening Project that will proceed in Spring 2009.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

At its meeting of July 25, 26 and 27, 2006 City Council adopted Clause 8 of Report 6 of the Policy and Finance Committee, entitled, “Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Initiative Five-Year Business Plan/Ten-Year Forecast (2006-2015)”. The Leslie Street Greening Project, identified as one of the Portland Beautification Projects, was initiated in 2006.

The Leslie Street Greening Project proposes to create a generous green corridor connecting the neighbourhoods to the north of Lake Shore to the Port Lands and its emerging park system including Tommy Thompson Park and the future Lake Ontario Park. The Greening Project proposes improvements to the existing Martin Goodman Trail, the introduction of continuous sidewalks along both sides of Leslie, the addition of trees, shrubs and ground cover to create an attractive and safe, landscaped corridor for pedestrians, bicyclists and in-line skaters.

Phase 1 of the work included the west side of Leslie Street, between Lake Shore Boulevard and Commissioners Street, and the eastern frontage south of Commissioners. Phase 2 of Leslie Street Greening Project is now underway and includes the west side south of Commissioners, the redesign of the Transportation Services yard frontage, soil testing, engineering works and studies to resolve servicing storm water management issues.

Transportation Services staff have been working with Waterfront Toronto and the Ward Councillors to identify potential improvements for pedestrians and cyclists for inclusion in this project.

COMMENTS

Existing Conditions

Commissioners Street at Leslie Street forms the west leg of this four-leg signalized intersection. Commissioners Street has five lanes with three eastbound lanes approaching Leslie Street: a left-turn lane, a through lane and a right-turn lane. The east leg is a shared two-lane driveway to Toronto Water’s Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant and the Transportation Services yard. Leslie Street is four lanes wide. TTC operates the Jones 83 bus route, which runs southbound on Leslie Street then westbound to the Commissioners Street garage/Wheeltrans facility. The intersection of Leslie Street and Commissioners Street is controlled by traffic signals.

Modification to the east side of Leslie Street

Transportation Services operates a service yard on the east side of Leslie Street, south of Commissioners Street. This yard has two access driveways to Leslie Street. The northerly driveway serves winter snow removal operations. Due to concerns of public safety with City trucks crossing the Martin Goodman Trail, the southerly entrance to Transportation Services yard on Leslie Street would close. In order to facilitate this, the existing internal north-south roadway to the east of Leslie Street would need to be upgraded. This roadway, which links to the Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant shared

driveway, would be the primary access into/out of the Transportation Services yard to Leslie Street.

The Martin Goodman Trail crosses this shared driveway on the east side of the Leslie Street/Commissioners Street intersection. Toronto Water staff have identified concerns with conflicts between cyclists on the trail and heavy trucks leaving their plant. With the increase in use of this driveway by heavy vehicles from the Transportation Services yard, it is important that the safety of pedestrians and cyclists is addressed.

Therefore, the northeast corner of the Leslie Street/Commissioners Street intersection needs to be modified to better enable heavy trucks to negotiate the right turn from the shared driveway to Leslie Street. Improving this radius will also ensure that pedestrians and cyclists on the trail are visible to truck drivers.

Further, bicycle signal displays will be installed across the east side of the intersection. The installation of bicycle signals should enhance the operational safety for cyclists and provide an increased awareness of the Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant driveway.

Modification to Commissioners Street, both sides, at Leslie Street

To improve the environment for pedestrians at the Leslie Street/Commissioners intersection, we are proposing to narrow Commissioners Street, where it meets Leslie Street, on both the north and south sides. The pedestrian crossing distance on the west side of the intersection will be reduced, and the pedestrian space on the northwest and southwest corners will be increased. The eastbound approach of Commissioners Street will be reduced to two lanes. There will be no significant impact on the level of service at this intersection.

Also, the pedestrian crosswalks, on all sides of the intersection will be enhanced with zebra-striping.

The proposed improvements should result in a more comfortable and improved environment for pedestrians and cyclists.

CONTACT

Vince Suppa, Traffic Engineer/Planner
Traffic Operations, Toronto and East York District
Telephone: (416) 392-1559
Fax: (416) 392-1920
e-mail: vsuppa@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Peter Noehammer, P.Eng.
Director, Transportation Services

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Drawing No. 421F-9636, dated April 2009
- (2) Drawing No. 421F-9639, dated April 2009 – Location Plan

P:\2009\Cluster B\TRA\Toronto and East York District\TOP\ts09075te.top.doc – cag