



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Rescind Right-Turn Prohibitions – Gerrard Street East

Date:	May 29, 2009
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York
Wards:	Toronto Centre-Rosedale, Ward 28
Reference Number:	Ts09104te.top.doc

SUMMARY

Transportation Services is requesting approval to rescind the westbound right-turn prohibition from Gerrard Street East onto Gifford Street and the westbound right-turn prohibition from Gerrard Street East onto Nasmith Avenue.

These prohibitions were originally part of a traffic management plan to prevent vehicles from cruising through this Cabbagetown Community.

The removal of these right-turn prohibitions will provide residents with improved access to local roadways and will not impact traffic operations or TTC service.

Transportation Services is also dealing with a request to rescind the northbound right-turn prohibition from Sumach Street onto Spruce Street. This matter is dealt with in a companion report entitled, “Rescind Right-Turn Prohibition – Sumach Street” requiring Toronto and East York Community Council approval.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that City Council:

1. Rescind the “No westbound right-turn anytime, bicycles excepted” regulation from Gerrard Street East to Nasmith Avenue.
2. Rescind the “No westbound right-turn anytime, bicycles excepted” regulation from Gerrard Street East to Gifford Street.

Financial Impact

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

DECISION HISTORY

The former City of Toronto Council, at its meeting of April 18, 1994 (Report 6, Clause 29), approved among other items a westbound right-turn prohibition at Gerrard Street East and Nasmith Avenue; a westbound right-turn prohibition at Gerrard Street East and Gifford Street; and a northbound right-turn prohibition, 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. at Sumach Street and Spruce Street. These regulations were intended to deter non-resident circulating traffic and discourage street solicitation in the area bounded by Parliament Street, Spruce Street, River Street and Gerrard Street East.

The former City of Toronto Council, at its meeting of June 19, 1996 (Report 9, Clause 15), approved among other items that cyclists be exempted from the right turn prohibitions at Gerrard Street East and Gifford Street, Gerrard Street East and Nasmith Avenue, and Sumach Street and Spruce Street.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Following a request from the Don Vale Cabbagetown Residents Association, Councillor Pam McConnell requested that Transportation Services consider removing the existing westbound right-turn prohibitions from Gerrard Street East to Nasmith Avenue and Gifford Street. Residents indicate that street solicitation no longer exists in this area, and they would like the right-turn prohibitions removed to allow for easier access to properties on Spruce Street to the east of Gifford Street

Transportation Services is also dealing with a request to rescind the northbound right-turn prohibition from Sumach Street onto Spruce Street. This matter is dealt with in a companion report entitled, “Rescind Right-Turn Prohibition – Sumach Street” requiring Toronto and East York Community Council approval.

COMMENTS

Gerrard Street East, between Parliament Street and River Street is a four-lane minor arterial roadway with a speed limit of 40 km/h. Traffic control signals exist at Parliament Street, Sackville Street, Sumach Street, and River Street. TTC service is provided on Gerrard Street East with the “506-Carlton” streetcar route.

Gifford Street and Nasmith Avenue operate as two-way local roadways between the signalized intersections of Sackville Street (one-way southbound) and Sumach Street (one-way northbound). Westbound right turns are prohibited from Gerrard Street East onto Nasmith Avenue and Gifford Street at all times (bicycles excepted).

The existing turn prohibitions have caused routing difficulties for residents trying to access Spruce Street from westbound Gerrard Street East. Currently, residents have two

options to access properties on Spruce Street between Gifford Street and River Street. Motorists travel west on Gerrard Street East to Parliament Street, head north on Parliament Street and turn right onto Spruce Street. Alternatively, they turn right onto Sumach Street, proceed north past Spruce Street to Carlton Street and turn left, proceed west on Carlton Street to Sackville Street and turn left, proceed south on Sackville Street to Spruce Street and make another left.

Since these streets provide only local access, removing the turn prohibitions will simplify access for residents; will have minimal impact on traffic operations; and should not adversely affect TTC service.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

(1) Drawing No. 421F-9648, dated May 2009

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