



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Removal of U-turn Prohibition – Commissioners Street

Date:	June 1, 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:	Ts09095te.top.doc

SUMMARY

Transportation Services is seeking authority from City Council to rescind the existing “U”-turn prohibition on Commissioners Street, between Don Roadway and Leslie Street, as this prohibition is no longer required. The “U”-turn prohibition was enacted in 2001 as part of the traffic management plan for the F.G. Gardiner Expressway Dismantling Project.

At the request of Toronto and East York Community Council, Transportation Services has reviewed the traffic control measures that were put in place for the F.G. Gardiner Expressway Dismantling Project to ensure that all of the regulations that are no longer required have been removed. The traffic control measures included traffic control signals, lane designations, pedestrian crossing prohibitions, “No Stopping” regulations, turn prohibitions, and “U” turn prohibitions to create a safe and efficient route to divert Lake Shore Boulevard East traffic along Commissioners Street. The majority of these measures have been removed or, in a few cases, retained as permanent. The only remaining regulation identified that should be removed is the existing eastbound and westbound “U” turn prohibition on Commissioners Street, between Don Roadway and Leslie Street.

The proposed removal of the “U” turn prohibition on Commissioners Street will not result in any significant safety concern, nor will it impact negatively on the level of service, including TTC service, on Commissioners Street.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council rescind the existing eastbound and westbound “U”-turn prohibition on Commissioners Street, between Don Roadway and Leslie Street.

Financial Impact

Type of funding	Source of funds	Amount
Available within current budget	Toronto Transportation Services 2009 Operating Budget	\$1,000.00

DECISION HISTORY

City Council, at its meeting of April 11, 12 and 13, 2000, approved Clause No. 21 of Report No. 6 of the Works Committee "F.G. Gardiner Expressway Dismantling Project – Don Roadway to Leslie Street, Contract No. 00D1-01RD, Tender Call No. 01-2000 which contained a joint report dated March 6, 2000, from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services and the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer and a report dated March 10, 2000, from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services requesting approval for traffic control measures required to facilitate detoured traffic operation during the F. G. Gardiner East Dismantling Project (Stage 2).

City Council, its meeting on April 29, and 30, 2009 approved Transportation Services' March 27, 2009 report (Item 25.36) which recommended the rescission of the peak period weekday parking prohibitions on both sides of Commissioners Street, between Don Roadway and Leslie Street. At that meeting, City Council directed Transportation Services to identify all transportation-related signage that was part of the F. G. Gardiner Dismantling Project that is no longer required and measures to be taken for removal.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The F.G. Gardiner Expressway Dismantling Project was divided into three stages. Stage 2, which began in April 2000, involved the rerouting of eastbound Lake Shore Boulevard East traffic, between Don Roadway and Leslie Street, via Commissioners Street. Stage 3, which was amended along the way, involved detouring both eastbound and westbound Lake Shore Boulevard East traffic via Commissioners Street.

Traffic control measures introduced for Stages 2 and 3:

- traffic control signals on Commissioners Street at Don Roadway, Saulter Street South, Carlaw Avenue, and Leslie Street.
- designation of lanes for dual turning movements.
- pedestrian crossing prohibitions to protect pedestrians from conflict with the dual turning movements.
- stopping prohibitions along the detour route.
- turn prohibitions and “No Right Turn on Red” regulations at specific locations to maintain traffic flow and ensure safety at intersections.

- prohibition of “U” turns in both directions along the detour route to mitigate the potential for collisions.

COMMENTS

Transportation Services staff have reviewed the traffic control measures that were put in place during the F.G.Gardiner Expressway Dismantling Project, to ensure that all measures that are no longer required have been removed. Following is a brief summary of the results of our review:

Traffic control signals – The traffic control signals on Commissioners Street at Don Roadway, Carlaw Avenue, and Leslie Street have been retained on a permanent basis to ensure safe movement of traffic, cyclists, and pedestrians at these intersections. The traffic control signals on Commissioners Street at Saulter Street South were removed as they were no longer required.

Lane designations and pedestrian crossing prohibitions – All lane designations that were put in place to accommodate dual turns along the detour route have been removed. Certain lane designations for single turning movements have been retained on a permanent basis where the purpose of the designated lane has not changed (for example, the southbound right turn lane from Leslie Street to Commissioners Street). Also, all pedestrian crossing prohibitions have been removed.

Stopping prohibitions – Stopping prohibitions were introduced on Commissioners Street along the detour route, on Villiers Street, and on Don Roadway, Carlaw Avenue, and Leslie Street between Lake Shore Boulevard East and Commissioners Street. The stopping prohibitions have now been removed from Commissioners Street and Villiers Street. The stopping prohibitions on Don Roadway, Carlaw Avenue, and Leslie Street have been retained on a permanent basis due to the level of traffic activity in the vicinity of the Lake Shore Boulevard East intersections.

Turn prohibitions and “No Right Turn on Red” prohibitions – These prohibitions were put in place to ensure the safety of motorists along the detour route, particularly with dual turns provided at the major intersections. All of these turn prohibitions and “No Right Turn on Red” prohibitions have been removed.

“U” turn prohibitions – When traffic was diverted from Lake Shore Boulevard East to Commissioners Street, there was a significant increase in traffic volumes in both directions on Commissioners Street, Don Roadway, Carlaw Avenue, and Leslie Street, with potential congestion and delays along that route. “U” turns were prohibited in both directions on Commissioners Street, between Don Roadway and Leslie Street, and on Don Roadway, Carlaw Avenue, and Leslie Street, between Lake Shore Boulevard East and Commissioners Street. These “U” turn prohibitions were not removed.

“U” Turn Prohibitions

Currently, Commissioners Street, between Don Roadway and Leslie Street is a four-lane collector roadway with a 50 km/hr speed limit. Traffic control signals exist at Don Roadway, Carlaw Avenue and at Leslie Street. The TTC operates the 72 Pape bus route

on Commissioners Street, with eastbound and westbound stops at Carlaw Avenue and at Don Roadway. A “Wheeltrans” facility exists on the north side of Commissioners Street, just west of Leslie Street, with stops nearby. Parking is allowed for a 3-hour-maximum period on both sides of Commissioners Street, between Don Roadway and Leslie Street.

Daily traffic volume on this section of Commissioners Street is approximately 8,000 vehicles, of which 550 and 600 motorists use this roadway during morning and afternoon peak hours, respectively. Prevailing daily traffic volumes on this section of Commissioners Street indicate that rescinding the “U”-turn prohibition on both sides of Commissioners Street, between Don Roadway and Leslie Street should not result in any significant impacts to the operational safety of Commissioners Street.

TTC staff have been consulted and have no objections with the proposed rescindment of the “U”-turn prohibition on Commissioners Street, between Don Roadway and Leslie Street.

Don Roadway, Carlaw Avenue, and Leslie Street, between Lake Shore Boulevard East and Commissioners Street, are each four-lane roadways with a 50 km/hr speed limit. These short road sections have high levels of traffic activity, due to the nature of the intersections with Lake Shore Boulevard East and also due to accesses to new development in this area. Retaining the “U” turn prohibitions on these north-south streets is recommended to minimize conflicts and reduce the potential for collisions.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Peter Noehammer, P.Eng.
Director, Transportation Services

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

(1) Drawing No. 421F-9669, dated May 2009

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