



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Regulations to deter through traffic movement – Barton Avenue at Christie Street

Date:	May 27, 2009
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District
Wards:	Trinity-Spadina, Ward 20
Reference Number:	Ts09109te.top.doc

SUMMARY

Transportation Services is reporting on a request from Councillor Adam Vaughan to prohibit southbound left-turns, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday to Saturday (bicycles excepted) from Christie Street onto Barton Avenue.

It is desirable to deter commuter traffic from using local neighbourhood streets and the suggested turn prohibition could reduce traffic volume on Barton Avenue by deterring cut-through traffic, between Christie Street and Bathurst Street. However, the over all reduction in traffic volume could be minor since there are other inlets to the neighbourhood that can be taken by motorists to by-pass the turn prohibition. Traffic volume could increase on other local streets in the residential neighbourhood area and implementing the suggested turn prohibition is not recommended.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that City Council:

1. Not prohibit left-turns from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday to Saturday, (bicycles excepted) by southbound traffic from Christie Street onto Barton Avenue.

Financial Impact

The adoption of the above-noted recommendation will not result in any financial impact. If, however, Toronto and East York Community Council decides to prohibit left-turns from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday to Saturday, (bicycles excepted) by southbound traffic from Christie Street onto Barton Avenue, the cost of sign installation is estimated to be about \$500.00 funds for which are available in Transportation Services 2009 Operating Budget

ISSUE BACKGROUND

At the request of Councillor Adam Vaughan, following consultation with local residents, Transportation Services is reporting on a request to implement a southbound left-turn prohibition from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday to Saturday, (bicycles excepted) at the intersection of Christie Street and Barton Avenue. The intent of this regulation is to reduce the volume of cut-through traffic on Barton Avenue, between Christie Street and Bathurst Street.

COMMENTS

Road Characteristics

Barton Avenue is classified as a collector road operating two-way on a pavement width of 7.32 metres. In response to community concerns regarding speeding by motor vehicles, speed humps were installed on Barton Avenue from Clinton Street to Bathurst Street in 1997 and the posted maximum speed limit was reduced to 30 km/h. There is no TTC service on Barton Avenue.

Christie Street is classified as a minor arterial road. The “Christie-126” limited service TTC bus operates on Christie Street, between Bloor Street West and St. Clair Avenue.

Residents’ concerns/suggestions

Residents of Barton Avenue have expressed concern about excessive cut-through traffic and generally high volume of traffic on Barton Avenue. They want the City to implement traffic regulations that will deter the amount of cut-through traffic on their street.

Traffic volume data

A directional traffic survey was undertaken at the intersection of Christie Street and Barton Avenue. The results of the survey disclosed that about 291 vehicles turned left from southbound Christie Street onto eastbound Barton Avenue during the twelve-hour period from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

A recent 24-hour speed and volume survey was undertaken on Barton Avenue between Christie Street and Clinton Street which disclosed that an average of 3,448 combined eastbound and westbound vehicles travel on this block of Barton Avenue. The average traffic volume of about 3,448 vehicles a day is in within a range typically expected on a collector roadway (3,000 to 6,000 vehicles a day). Motor vehicles generally travel at rates

of speed between 30 and 40 kilometres per hour, which is typical of a street with speed humps.

Impacts of a Turn Restriction

The impacts of prohibiting southbound left-turns from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday to Saturday are as follows.

- It could discourage cut-through traffic and reduce traffic volume on Barton Avenue, resulting in less congestion and pollution.
- It would provide a safer environment for pedestrians crossing or walking along Barton Avenue.
- It could encourage motorists to use Bloor Street West or Dupont Street as their primary east/west route.
- Residents of Barton Avenue and other local streets intersecting Barton Avenue could experience inconvenience since they too are subject to the regulation.
- Follis Avenue might inherit some displaced traffic from Barton Avenue.
- The regulation will require strict enforcement to be effective.
- Motorists will discover alternate routes to bypass the turn prohibition, such as approaching eastbound on Barton Avenue, from west of Christie Street.

It is likely that vehicles entering Barton Avenue, from Christie Street use a portion of this street and the local community to the south as a cut-through route between Christie Street/Bloor Street West/Bathurst Street. However, the block-by-block traffic volumes suggest that the actual volume of cut-through traffic traveling from Christie Street to Bathurst Street by way of Barton Avenue is low. Since there are ways to bypass the suggested turn prohibition the over all reduction in traffic volume could be minor. Also, the one-way pattern of intersecting north/south streets in this community, suggests motorists would likely divert to Follis Avenue (one block north), proceed east on Follis Avenue to Clinton Street, then south on Clinton Street to Barton Avenue where they could continue eastbound to Bathurst Street or zig-zag through the community by way of streets such as Manning Avenue or Markham Street to reach Bloor Street West.

CONCLUSION

Transportation Services does not recommend prohibiting southbound left-turns from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday to Saturday from Christie Street onto Barton Avenue since the turn prohibition is more likely to be an inconvenience to local residents/local access than an effective way of prohibiting cut-through traffic.

If Toronto and East York Community Council deems it advisable and in the best interests of the community to prohibit southbound left-turns from Christie Street onto Barton Avenue between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., Monday to Saturday it should recommend that:

- City Council prohibits left-turns from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday to Saturday (bicycles excepted) by southbound traffic from Christie Street onto Barton Avenue.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Peter Noehammer, P.Eng.
Director, Transportation Services

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Drawing No. 421F-9686, dated May, 2009

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