



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

No Right Turn on Red – Leslie Street and Commissioners Street

Date:	September 24, 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:	Ts09163te.top.doc

SUMMARY

Transportation Services is seeking authority from City Council to prohibit westbound to northbound right turns on a red traffic signal display at the intersection of Leslie Street and Commissioners Street.

This prohibition is required to enhance safety at the shared driveway serving the Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant and Transportation Services yard, located on the east side of Leslie Street opposite Commissioners Street.

This change which is proposed in conjunction with pre-approved intersection improvements for Waterfront Toronto's Leslie Street Greening Project, Phase 2 will increase the comfort level for pedestrians and cyclists at this intersection.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that City Council:

1. Prohibit westbound to northbound right turns on a red traffic signal display at Leslie Street and Commissioners Street/shared driveway to Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant-Transportation Services Yard.

Financial Impact

All costs associated with the proposed prohibition at Leslie and Commissioners Streets will be the responsibility of Waterfront Toronto in connection with Phase 2 of the Leslie Street Greening Project that should be completed in Fall, 2009.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of May 25, 26 and 27, 2009 City Council adopted Item TE 26.55 of the Toronto and East York Community Council, entitled, “Road Alterations – Leslie Street and Commissioners Street”. In so doing, City Council requested the General Manager, Transportation Services to report to the Toronto and East York Community Council to prohibit westbound to northbound movements during the red light signal operation.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Leslie Street Greening Project proposes to create a generous green corridor connecting the neighbourhoods to the north of Lake Shore Boulevard with 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 Street, and 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 Street. Phase 2 of Leslie Street Greening Project will be underway this Fall and includes the west side south of Commissioners Street, 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.

During the peak eight hours of a typical weekday, 170 vehicles make a westbound right turn from the shared Toronto Water’s Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant and the Transportation Services yard driveway to northbound Leslie Street.

The Martin Goodman Trail crosses the shared driveway on the east side of the Leslie Street/Commissioners Street intersection. Toronto Water staff has identified concerns with conflicts between cyclists on the trail and heavy trucks leaving their plant.

In our April 2009 report, Transportation Services detailed changes to the north curb line on the northeast corner of the Leslie Street/Commissioners Street intersection to better enable heavy trucks to negotiate the right turn from the shared driveway to Leslie Street. Improving this radius would 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.

The complementary proposed westbound right-turn-on-red prohibition should result in a more comfortable and improved environment for pedestrians and cyclists. There would be negligible negative impacts to the intersection level of service. However, some minor increases in vehicular delay for motorists exiting onto Leslie Street will be experienced.

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-9639, dated April 2009

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