

# STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

# Sign Variance Report CN Rail Lands at Lawrence Ave W and Caledonia Rd

Date:	December 16, 2009
To:	Chair and Members, The Etobicoke York Community Council
From:	Mark Sraga, Director and Deputy Chief Building Official
Wards:	York South – Weston, Ward 12
Reference Number:	2010EY005

#### **SUMMARY**

This staff report is about a matter for which the Community Council has been delegated authority from City Council to make final decision.

Request for approval of variances from the former City of North York Sign By-law No 30788 to erect a new double sided illuminated third party ground sign having digital faces of different sizes that will project static messages every 6 seconds. Sign will be located on CN Rail Lands at Lawrence Ave W and Caledonia Rd.

The request comes from Blair Murdoch with Allvision Canada for Canadian National Railway, attn Ernie Longo, Manager of BD & RE for approval of the variances from the former City of North York Sign By-law No 30788.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

(1) The request for variances be denied as they are not minor in nature.

#### Financial Impact

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report

#### **COMMENTS**

The double sided illuminated third party ground sign (off premise sign) is proposed on a "railway corridor" in an area located in the former municipality of North York (Ward 12), and is subject to Zoning By-law No. 7625, as amended, and the Sign by-law No. 30788.

The proposed ground sign will consist of two sign faces in a "V" configuration. The east sign face will be 3m x 10.67m (10 ft x 35 ft) with a sign face area of 32.5 m² (350 ft²) and will be a digital screen. The digital screens are proposed to have static messages every 6 seconds. The west sign face will be 3m x 6m (10ft x 20ft) and will have a sign face area of 18.56 m² (200 ft²) and will be a tri-vision panel.

The proposed illuminated off premise sign will be located approximately 20 m from another illuminated off premise sign, to the east, on the same side of the street and on the same railway corridor. The proposed illuminated off premise sign will be located approximately 40 m from another illuminated off premise sign, to the east but on the opposing side of the street and on the same railway corridor.

The sign does not comply with the former City of North York Sign By-law No 30788 in the following ways:

Sign By-law Section & Requirements	Applicant's Proposal	Required Variance
<ul> <li>4.10.1 Off premise signs may be erected on railway corridors provided:</li> <li>No such sign shall be less than 153.0 m (500.0 ft) from land zoned residential.</li> </ul>	To erect an illuminated off premise sign that will be adjacent to a residential zone.	To permit an illuminated off premise sign that will be immediately adjacent to a residential zone in lieu of being not less than 150 m from land zoned residential.
4.10.2 Maximum height of the sign shall be 7.5 m (24.6 ft) and a maximum sign area of 25 m² (269.1 ft²).	Proposed illuminated off premise sign will have a height of 10.67 m, and a sign area of 32.0 m <sup>2</sup> .	To permit an illuminated off premise sign that will be 10.67 m in lieu of the maximum 7.5 m in height and have a sign area of 32.0 m² in lieu of the maximum 25 m².
4.10.3 No such sign shall be located within 45.7 m (149.9 ft) from another off premise sign erected on the same side of the street which crosses the corridor.	Proposed illuminated off premise sign will be 20 m from another off premise sign located to the east on the same side of the street.	To permit an illuminated off premise sign that will be approximately 20 m in lieu of 45.7 m from another off premise sign located to the same side of the street.

Sign By-law Section & Requirements	Applicant's Proposal	Required Variance
1.1.22, & 2.9.6  "Animated signs" are prohibited.	Proposed sign face has illumination that varies with each copy both in colour and intensity at periodic intervals, hence it is a "flashing sign", which is a type included in the definition of "animated sign".	To permit the proposed off premise sign to be animated through illumination that varies with each copy both in colour and intensity at periodic intervals while displaying a static messages every 6 seconds.

Therefore, it is recommended that Council deny the requested variances as they are not minor in nature.

#### PROPOSED NEW SIGN BY-LAW

On December 7, 2009 City Council approved a new harmonized Sign By-law that will come into force and effect on April 6, 2010. The following is an evaluation of this particular sign variance application against the new draft Sign By-Law requirements that would govern this particular sign. This evaluation has been done to assist Council in understanding how this proposed sign would compare to the new regulatory requirements contained in the proposed Sign By-law.

One of the main features of the proposed Sign By-law is that the regulations governing signs are based upon the "Sign District" in which the sign is located. These Sign Districts align with the underlying land uses as envisioned in the Official Plan and will classify every property into a "sign district" and utilizes a series of maps to identify the various sign districts throughout the City. This approach is similar to the one being utilized by the new proposed City-wide Zoning By-law mapping.

In the case of this sign variance application and the property on which the proposed sign is located it would be classified as a "U - Utility Sign District".

Sign By-law Section & Requirements	Applicant's Proposal	Required Variance
694-22 Third party sign general regulations	Proposal is to erect a third party sign within 20 metres of an existing third party sign.	To permit a third party sign within 20 metres of an existing third party sign.
694-22.D. A third party sign shall not be erected within		, , ,
100.0 metres of any other lawful third party sign whether		
or not erected.		

694-25.C. A U – Utility Sign district may contain the following;  (1) a ground sign provided: (a) the sign face area shall not exceed 20.0 m² (b) the height shall not exceed 10.0 metres	h a sign sign with a sign face area of 32.5 m <sup>2</sup> with a height of 10.67
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### **CONTACT**

Algimantas Jasinevicius, Manager, Plan Examination

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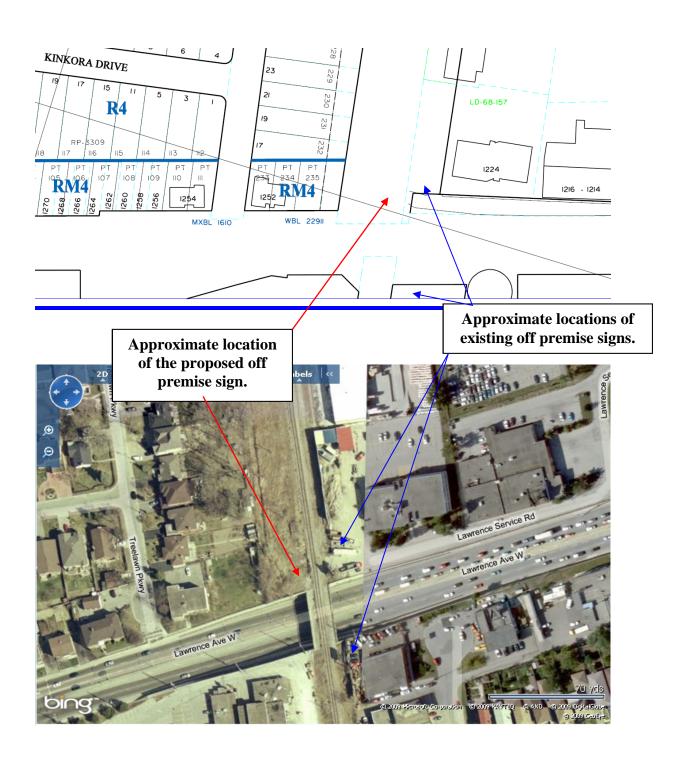
E-mail: ajasinev@toronto.ca

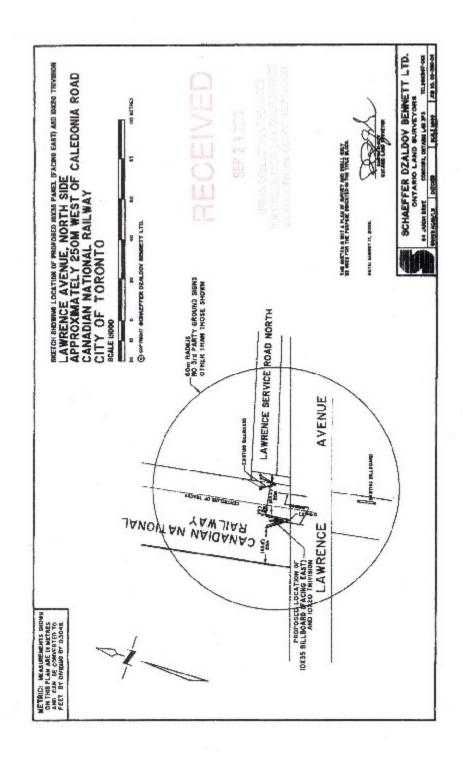
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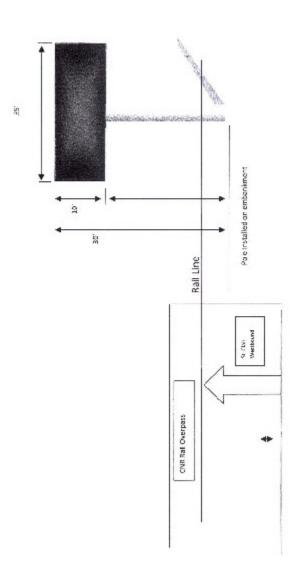
Mark Sraga Director of Building and Deputy Chief Building Official The Etobicoke York District

### **ATTACHMENTS**

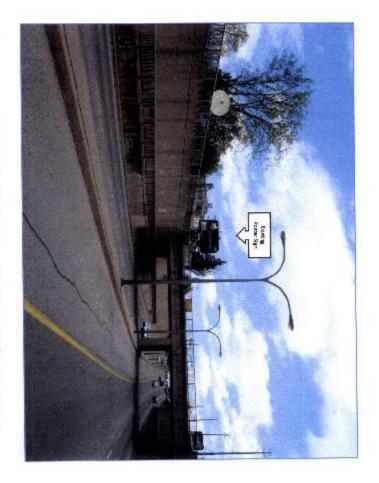
- Zoning Map
- Pictures from site
- Elevation drawings
- Site plan





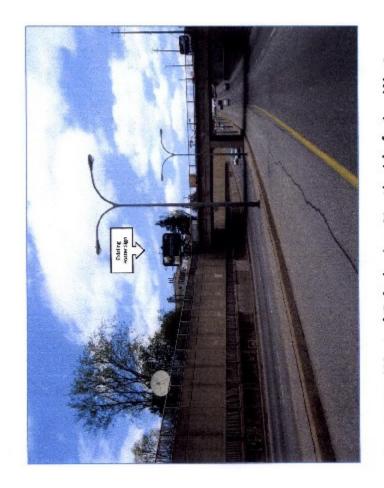


FROJE	FROJECT DESCRIPTION: Install a double sided advertising sign containing a 10'x35' digital face (facing east) and a 10'x20' trivision face (facing weat)	ast) and a 10'x20' trivision face (facing weat).
LOCAT	LOCATION: Lawrence Avenue approximately 250 meters west of Caledonia Road, west side of tracks.	60
CONTA	CONTACT: Blair Murdoch, Allvision Canada	
TEL	905-285-0145	
DATE.	DATE: August 18, 2009	
TONE	TOOL Thomas form and form to make the	



Lawrence, West of Caledonia – North side facing West Existing Poster Sign Face

Area - 10 ft x 20 ft. Overall Height - 25 ft.



Lawrence, West of Caledonia – North side facing West

Existing Poster Sign Face Area - 10 ft x 20 ft.

Overall Height - 25 ft.

## Applicant:

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