



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Gary Drive and Portage Avenue – Removal of All-Way Stop Control

Date:	January 18, 2010
To:	Etobicoke York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services - Etobicoke York District
Wards:	Ward 11 – York South-Weston
Reference Number:	p:\2010\Cluster B\TRA\EtobicokeYork\eycc100039-to

SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter that Community Council has delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision.

The purpose of this report is to present the results of a request to remove the all-way STOP control at the intersection of Gary Drive and Portage Avenue. A staff assessment concludes that the criteria for installing an all-way STOP at this location is not met due to very low traffic volumes, with no evidence of unsafe operation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that Etobicoke Community Council approve:

1. Removing the all-way STOP control at the intersection of Gary Drive and Portage Avenue, as the warrant requirements are not achieved.

Financial Impact

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

COMMENTS

Councillor Francis Nunziata, Ward 11, York South-Weston, on behalf of area residents, requested Transportation Services staff investigate removing the all-way STOP control at the intersection of Gary Drive and Portage Avenue. A 2008 report recommended installing the all-way STOP control; however, following installation of the signs, and as a result of concerns received from area residents, staff agreed to re-evaluate the intersection and its operation. A map of the area is Attachment No. 1, and photographs of the subject intersection are contained in Attachment No. 2.

Gary Drive is a collector road operating in both directions, eastbound and westbound, with a posted speed limit of 40 km/h and an 8.5 metre road width. Portage Avenue is a local street operating both ways with a posted speed limit of 40 km/h, and road width of 8.5 metres, forming a “T” intersection with Gary Drive.

All-way STOP controls exist to the west at Gary Drive and Wendell Avenue and to the east at Gary Drive and Langside Avenue. Gary Drive is also a TTC Bus Route with bus stops on the southwest and northeast corners of the intersection.

The justification for the installation of an all-way stop control is based on a technical warrant adopted by Toronto City Council based on crash history and traffic volume. Our study results are summarized in Appendix A. The all-way STOP control warrants are not met at this location. No vehicle or pedestrian-vehicle conflicts were observed during our study.

We wish to point out that there is a considerable discrepancy between the traffic volumes originally recorded in 2008, and the volumes we counted during our study done in January 2010. The volumes in 2008 were substantially higher than the numbers that we observed during our most recent surveys. The traffic volumes that we recently recorded were based on a number of observations, correlated with additional automatic traffic court data, and are considered a more statistically reliable measure of existing road operations. We can only surmise that atypical congestion on the boundary road network may have resulted in a diversion through the neighbourhood, resulting in the unusually high traffic volumes recorded in 2008.

A review of the Toronto Police Service crash records over a five-year period ending December 31, 2009, found one reportable collision at Gary Drive and Portage Avenue. A vehicle rear-ended a TTC bus travelling westbound on Gary Drive. This collision occurred

in 2009, when the all-way STOP was in effect. It must be pointed out that there were no reported crashes at the intersection in the five years prior to installing the all-way STOP.

After reviewing the original data and observing the intersection, considering the warrant criteria is not satisfied, staff recommends removing the unwarranted all-way STOP control at the intersection of Gary Drive and Portage Avenue.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Al Smithies

Director, Transportation Services - Etobicoke York District

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A

Attachment 1: Map

Attachment 2: Photograph

APPENDIX A

Warrants for All-way STOP Sign Control

Study location: Gary Drive and Portage Avenue

Four-Hour Study Period	Total Approach Vehicle Volume	Vehicle/Pedestrian Volume Crossing Major Road	Unit Volume Split Major/Minor Roads
Study Period Average	350	13	96/4
Warrant Requirements for Study Period Average	≥ 375	≥ 150	$\geq 30/70$ or $\leq 70/30$

To warrant the installation of an all-way stop control, the traffic volume requirements for the “Study Period Average” must be completely satisfied in either of the following two combinations:

1. “Total Approach Vehicle Volume” & “Unit Volume Split – Major/Minor Roads”
- or
2. “Vehicle/Pedestrian Volume Crossing Major Road” & “Unit Volume Split-Major/Minor Roads”