



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Weston Road and Fern Avenue – Traffic Control Signals

Date:	January 12, 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\eycc100049-to

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval for installing traffic control signals at the Weston Road/Fern Avenue intersection.

The installation of traffic control signals is justified as the Pedestrian Crossover Warrant requirements are achieved; however, this form of crossing protection fails to meet several key environmental standards at this location. Installing traffic control signals at this intersection provides safe and convenient access for pedestrians and vehicles accessing Fern Avenue, but will result in increased delay to through vehicles on Weston Road.

Since the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates a transit service on Weston Road, City Council approval of this report is required. TTC staff has been consulted on this item.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that City Council approve:

1. The installation of traffic control signals at the intersection of Weston Road and Fern Avenue.

Financial Impact

Type of Funding	Source of Funds	Amount
Available within capital works budget	Project No. CTP709-01	\$135,000.00

ISSUE BACKGROUND

As a result of a request received from Councillor Nunziata's office, on behalf of residents in the apartment complex at 2100 Weston Road, Transportation Services were requested to study the intersection of Weston Road/Fern Avenue to determine the need for pedestrian crossing protection across Weston Road. A map of the area is Attachment 1. Attachment 2 is an aerial photograph of the subject intersection.

COMMENTS

Weston Road, in the vicinity of Fern Avenue, is a four-lane major arterial road with a recent daily traffic volume of about 18,000 vehicles. The road width is approximately 14.0 metres from curb to curb. Land use in the area is high density residential and commercial retail.

Traffic control signals are located approximately 150 metres to the north at the Weston Road/Church Street intersection and 260 metres to the south at the Weston Road/King St./King Street Crescent intersection.

Fern Avenue is a two-lane local road. A STOP control is located on Fern Avenue approach to Weston Road. The legal speed limit on this section of Weston Road is 50 km/h.

The Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates a transit service on Weston Road including an existing northbound stop at the southeast corner of the intersection of Weston Road and Fern Avenue, and a southbound stop just south of the intersection.

Study results were applied to the pedestrian crossover (PXO) warrant, producing the following results:

Study Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2009

PXO Warrant	Required Volume	Recorded Volume	Compliance
Adjusted Pedestrian Volume	234	236	100%
Pedestrian Delays Greater Than 10 Seconds	112	133	118%

To warrant the installation of a pedestrian crossover, compliance levels of 100% are required in both of the above categories.

The PXO warrant provides an adjustment factor for senior citizens, unassisted children and physically disabled pedestrians. During our eight hour study period, the majority of pedestrians crossing Weston Road at Fern Avenue were youths or adults, as follows:

Types of Pedestrians	Number of Pedestrians
Assisted Children	16
Unassisted Children	1
Youths / Adults	207
Senior Citizens	9
Physically Disabled	1

Assisted children are children crossing the road accompanied by a youth, an adult or a senior citizen.

Although the installation of a PXO is technically warranted near Fern Avenue, considering the road conditions, staff evaluated this location for traffic control signals according to guidelines developed for the “Audit of Operational and Physical Suitability of Pedestrian Crossovers in Toronto.” This review shows that a number of criteria for installing a PXO are not achieved. The standards and the comparative characteristics at this location are described in more detail in Appendix “A.”

A review of the Toronto Police Service collision records for the six-year period from January 1, 2004, to December 31, 2009, shows that there were three reported crashes that are be considered preventable by installing traffic control signals. Over the same time period, there were no reported crashes involving pedestrians at or near the Weston Road/ Fern Avenue intersection.

Based on the findings of the pedestrian crossover safety audit, it is recommended to install traffic control signals at the intersection of Weston Road and Fern Avenue. While the installation of traffic control signals will provide for a safer crossing environment for

pedestrians at this location and assist vehicles exiting and entering Fern Avenue, it will result in increased delay for through vehicles on Weston Road.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Appendix "A"	Environmental Standards for PXO Suitability Table
Attachment 1:	Map
Attachment 2	Aerial Photo

APPENDIX A

Environmental Standards for PXO Suitability

Standards or Criteria to be Met for Physical Suitability of a PXO	Met/ Not Met	Comment
Vehicle Operating speed less than 60 km/h	Not Met	85 th percentile speed is 61km/h (based on radar speed study, free flow conditions)
Not more than four lanes wide on a two-way street, or more than three lanes on a one-way street	Met	Four lanes
Traffic volume less than 35,000 vehicles per day (total both directions)	Met	18, 390 vehicles per day
No driveway entrances within 30 metres	Not Met	High density driveway on west side
No Significant volume of turning movements which interfere with PXO	Not Met	Turning movements to and from Fern Avenue/apartment driveway
No visibility problems exist for either pedestrians or motorists	Met	
No loading zones (including T.T.C.) in the immediate vicinity	Not Met	T.T.C. bus stop on both sides of the street
Not less than 215 metres to another PXO or traffic device	Not Met	Traffic signals located at 150.0 meters north of the proposed location