



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### Lawrence Avenue West and Westona Street – Traffic Control Signals

<b>Date:</b>	May 20, 2010
<b>To:</b>	Etobicoke York Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Director, Transportation Services - Etobicoke York District
<b>Wards:</b>	Ward 2 – Etobicoke-North
<b>Reference Number:</b>	p:\2010\Cluster B\TRA\EtobicokeYork\eycc100099-to

#### SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval for installing traffic control signals at the intersection of Lawrence Avenue West and Westona Street.

Although the warrants for the installation of traffic control signals are not met, a safety audit of the existing pedestrian crossover on Lawrence Avenue West at Westona Street showed that this location is no longer environmentally suitable for a pedestrian crossover, given the existing operating speed of vehicle traffic on Lawrence Avenue West. Based on the results of the pedestrian crossover audit, staff is recommending that the pedestrian crossover be replaced with traffic control signals.

Since the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates a transit service on Lawrence Avenue West, City Council approval of this report is required. TTC staff has been consulted on the matter and do not object to the proposal.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

**Transportation Services recommends that City Council approve:**

1. Installing traffic control signals at the intersection of Lawrence Avenue West and Westona Street.
2. Removing the pedestrian crossover on Lawrence Avenue West at Westona Street, in conjunction with installing traffic control signals.

## Financial Impact

Type of Funding	Source of Funds	Amount
Available within capital works budget	Project No. CTP709-01	\$110,000.00

## ISSUE BACKGROUND

At a meeting attended by Councillor Rob Ford and area residents, Transportation Services was asked if the existing pedestrian crossover on Lawrence Avenue West at Westona Street can be replaced with traffic control signals. We have now completed our investigation and offer the following comments. A map of the area is shown on Attachment 1.

## COMMENTS

Lawrence Avenue West, between Royal York Road and Scarlett Road, is a four lane minor arterial road with primarily residential homes that take direct driveway access to the street. This location was reviewed as part of the City-wide comprehensive study where all pedestrian crossovers on arterial roads were audited based on key criteria. At the time of the review, the speed limit at this location was 40 km/h, and the pedestrian crossover was deemed an appropriate traffic control device. Since that time, Humber Heights School, which fronted on Lawrence Avenue West, has been redeveloped as a seniors' retirement and housing complex. As a result of this change in land use, the existing 40 km/h speed limit was no longer deemed necessary. Subsequently, the 40 km/h speed limit was amended by Etobicoke York Community Council in 2007, and changed to 50 km/h.

Traffic control signals are located on Lawrence Avenue West approximately 420 metres to the east at Scarlett Road, and 340 metres to the west at Royal York Road.

The Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates a transit service on Lawrence Avenue West, which includes existing far side bus stops for both directions at the intersection of Lawrence Avenue West and Westona Street.

To assess traffic conditions, an eight-hour turning movement count was conducted on Monday, September 28, 2009, at the intersection of Lawrence Avenue West and Westona Street. Our turning movement study results were applied to the Traffic Control Signal Warrant analysis. The study results are as follows:

- |    |                                  |                |
|----|----------------------------------|----------------|
| a) | Minimum Vehicular Volume Warrant | 16% compliance |
| b) | Delay to Cross Traffic Warrant   | 32% compliance |

In order to meet the warrants, one hundred per cent compliance is required in one of the categories or a minimum of 80 per cent in both. The warrants for installing traffic control signals are not met at the intersection of Lawrence Avenue West and Westona Street.

Given the failure of the intersection to meet the traffic control signal warrants, the safety protocol requires that staff conduct a safety audit of the existing pedestrian crossover. One of the primary safety criteria is the road's vehicular operating, or 85<sup>th</sup> percentile, speed. Pedestrian crossovers are not appropriate if vehicle operating speeds exceed 60 km/h. Our most recent speed studies on Lawrence Avenue West, in the area of Westona Street, showed 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds of 63 km/h. Given the operating speeds on Lawrence Avenue West, the existing pedestrian crossover at Westona Street is no longer considered environmentally suitable for safe pedestrian crossings. Since pedestrian crossing assistance is essential at this location, the existing pedestrian crossover should be replaced with traffic control signals.

Based on the findings of the pedestrian crossover safety audit, it is recommended that the existing pedestrian crossover be removed and be replaced by traffic control signals at the intersection of Lawrence Avenue West and Westona Street. The installation of traffic control signals will provide for a safer crossing environment at this location.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Steven T. Kodama, P. Eng.  
Acting Director, Transportation Services - Etobicoke York District

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1:	Map
Attachment 2:	Aerial Photograph of the area
Attachment 3:	Streetview