

**Turn Restrictions: Avenue Road at Hillhurst Boulevard;
Avenue Road at Cortleigh Boulevard**

Date:	December 8, 2009
To:	North York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Division, North York District
Wards:	Ward 16 – Eglinton Lawrence
Reference Number:	<i>ny10010</i>

SUMMARY

To obtain approval to implement turn restrictions at the intersection of Avenue Road and Hillhurst Boulevard and at Avenue Road and Cortleigh Boulevard.

The proposed turn restrictions will address the Councillor's and residents concerns regarding right turning movements at the intersections of Avenue Road and Hillhurst Boulevard and Cortleigh Boulevard.

Since the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates a transit service on Avenue Road, City Council approval of this report is required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services Division recommends that City Council:

1. Prohibit northbound right turns from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except public holidays, on Avenue Road at Cortleigh Boulevard;
2. Prohibit northbound right turns from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except public holidays, on Avenue Road at Hillhurst Boulevard;

FINANCIAL IMPACT

All costs associated with the installation of the turn restrictions are included within the Transportation Services Division's 2010 Operating Budget estimates.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Transportation Services Division, North York District, was requested by Councillor Karen Stintz on behalf of area residents, to review intersection operations and the feasibility of restricting access onto Hillhurst Boulevard and Cortleigh Boulevard from Avenue Road during the peak travel periods. This request is based on the residents concerns with the increase in traffic on Hillhurst Boulevard since the replacement of the pedestrian crossover with traffic control signals at the intersection of Avenue Road and Hillhurst Boulevard in 1997.

COMMENTS

Avenue Road is a four-lane arterial road with a daily two-way traffic volume of approximately 42,000 vehicles and a regulatory speed limit of 50 km/h. Both Hillhurst Boulevard and Cortleigh Boulevard are two-lane local roadways with a posted speed limit of 40 km/h. The right-of-way for traffic on Hillhurst Boulevard at Avenue Road is controlled by traffic control signals and the right-of-way at Cortleigh Boulevard at Avenue Road is controlled by a westbound stop sign. Traffic control signals are located on Avenue Road 100 metres to the north of Cortleigh Boulevard at Lytton Boulevard and 200 metres to the south of Hillhurst Boulevard at St. Clements Avenue. The visibility at both intersections is clear and unrestricted.

The table below compares historical vehicle volumes on Hillhurst Boulevard.

24 Hour Vehicle Volumes				
Study Date	Direction	AM Peak	PM Peak	24 Hour Total
Hillhurst Boulevard				
November 1991	EB	15	16	213
	WB	25	47	539
August 2001	EB	47	45	416
	WB	29	36	357
November 2003	EB	43	73	501
	WB	55	52	491
June 2004	EB	67	56	623
	WB	42	52	500
January 2008	EB	106	48	589
	WB	74	68	630
Cortleigh Boulevard				
January 2008	EB	45	33	320
	WB	32	37	352

From the table above, it would appear there has been an increase in traffic over the years on Hillhurst Boulevard. This increase can be attributed to overall growth within the community and the increasing traffic volumes throughout the City on the arterial road network. Furthermore, given that there are traffic control signals at the intersection of Hillhurst Boulevard with Avenue Road, it is expected that the volume of traffic on

Hillhurst Boulevard would be higher than on other parallel roads. This can be attributed to the degree of safety provided to motorists when utilizing traffic control signals to access/cross an arterial road.

Although the traffic volumes on Hillhurst Boulevard and Cortleigh Boulevard have increased, they are in keeping with anticipated volumes for a local road in the City of Toronto which can reach upwards of 2500 vehicles per day.

In addition to the above traffic volume data, eight-hour turning movement counts at the intersection of Avenue Road and Hillhurst Boulevard have been compared to data at adjacent roadways which are also controlled by traffic control signals.

Eight- Hour Turning Movement Count Summary								
Study Date	Movements							
	NBRT		SBLT		WBT		EBT	
	A.M.*	P.M.*	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
Avenue Road at Hillhurst Boulevard								
November 1991	9	24	16	6	1	35	6	0
September 2001	14	21	16	38	42	44	62	30
January 2008	28	51	23	35	39	73	118	57
Avenue Road at St. Clements Avenue								
May 2008	18	34	50	63	54	63	73	49
Avenue Road at Lytton Boulevard (offset intersection-south leg signalized)								
January 2007	35	58	143	117	N/A, Off-set roadways			

* A.M. and P.M. = 2 hour peak periods

This division reviewed the implementation of entry/turn restrictions, specifically the installation of a northbound right turn, southbound left turn and eastbound and westbound through restrictions, at the intersection of Avenue Road/Hillhurst Boulevard. As well, the installation of a northbound right turn prohibition at Avenue Road and Cortleigh Boulevard was reviewed.

Although the entry/turn restrictions would have the desired impact of reducing volume on Hillhurst Boulevard and Cortleigh Boulevard, there are other impacts which should be considered, as follows:

- restrictions would impact traffic that is legitimately destined to locations within the community;
- traffic will be directed to parallel routes such as St. Clements Avenue, Briar Hill Avenue, Lytton Boulevard; not only will this result in concerns expressed by residents on these streets, but it will displace traffic movements from an intersection controlled by traffic signals to uncontrolled intersections, which raises potential safety concerns; and

- if the northbound right turn prohibition is implemented at Hillhurst Boulevard, a complimentary northbound right turn prohibition should be implemented at Avenue Road/Cortleigh Boulevard.

In view of the above findings, Councillor Stintz contacted the affected residents and confirmed that the residents are in agreement with the installation of northbound No Right Turns, from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 3: 00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday at both intersections. The implementation of the southbound left turn and through restrictions are not recommended at this time.

As such, this Division recommends the installation of northbound right turn prohibitions during the a.m. and p.m. peak traffic periods at these locations. The implementation of the right turn restriction will achieve the residents desire to reduce vehicle volumes on both roadways during the peak periods.

Councillor Karen Stintz has been advised of the recommendations in this report.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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Director

ATTACHMENTS:

Map 1: Avenue Rd at Hillhurst Blvd and Cortleigh Cresc: Entry Restrictions
(*ny10010_map*)