

U-turn and Left-Turn Prohibitions: Laird Drive

Date:	February 9, 2010
To:	North York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Division, North York District
Wards:	Ward 26 – Don Valley West
Reference Number:	<i>ny10025</i>

SUMMARY

To obtain approval to prohibit V-turns in both directions on Laird Drive between Wicksteed Avenue and Commercial Road and to prohibit southbound left-turns on Laird Drive at a point 65 metres south of Wicksteed Avenue.

The prohibition of u-turns on Laird Drive, between Wicksteed Avenue and Commercial Road and southbound left-turns on Laird Drive 65.0 metres south of Wicksteed Avenue will address concerns that vehicles conducting u-turns and left turns around the medians are creating unexpected and dangerous situations for motorists on Laird Drive.

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services Division recommends that City Council:

1. Prohibit u-turns in both directions on Laird Drive between Wicksteed Avenue and Commercial Road; and
2. Prohibit southbound left-turns at anytime on Laird Dr, at a point 65.0 metres south of Wicksteed Avenue.

Financial Impact

All costs associated with the installation of the turning prohibitions are included within the Transportation Services Division's 2010 Operating Budget estimate.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Transportation Services Division, North York District, was requested by Councillor John Parker, on behalf of local residents, to review the feasibility of prohibiting u-turns on Laird Drive between Wicksteed Avenue and Commercial Road. In addition, to prohibit southbound left-turns on Laird Drive at a point 65.0 metres south of Wicksteed Avenue. Complaints have identified that motorists entering/exiting the right-in/right-out driveway for the Smart Centre Plaza on the east side of Laird Drive have been conducting northbound u-turns and southbound left-turns at both the opening in the median planter and at the north limit of the median planter on Laird Drive.

COMMENTS

Currently on Laird Drive, there is a raised planter median extending from a point 35 metres north of Commercial Road to a point 35 metres south of Wicksteed Avenue/McRae Drive. There is one opening in the median to permit northbound left-turn access to a property on the west side of Laird Drive. The only driveway on the east side of Laird Drive between Wicksteed Avenue and Commercial Road provides right-in/right-out access for the Smart Centre Plaza.

An investigation of these concerns by staff has verified that motorists were observed conducting u-turns on Laird Drive. Field observations on January 18, 2010, indicated that three motorists were observed conducting u-turns in a one hour period. The u-turns appear to be conducted by motorists circumventing the right-in/right-out driveway controls at the Smart Centre Plaza. Confusion is created on Laird Drive when motorists unexpectedly conduct u-turns at the north and south limits of the median planter. In another observation it was observed that motorists are conducting southbound left-turns at the opening in the median to access the Smart Centre Plaza. As the plaza driveway on the east side of Laird Drive is positioned south of the opening in the median southbound left-turning vehicles actually drive in the wrong direction east of the median in order to access the driveway. This movement is contrary of the intention that the driveway on the east side of Laird Drive is for right-in/right-out movements only.

As the median on Laird Drive located immediately south of McRae Drive/Wicksteed Avenue to control right-in/right-out movements to/from the Smart Centre Plaza was installed in early 2009 there are no Toronto Police Service's collision records for incidents involving u-turns.

The prohibition of u-turns on Laird Drive between Wicksteed Avenue and Commercial Road and southbound left-turns on Laird Drive at a point 65.0 metres south of Wicks teed Avenue will improve traffic operations on Laird Drive.

Councillor John Parker has been advised of the recommendations contained in this report.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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Director

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment: Map – Laird Dr between Wicksteed Av and Commerical Rd (*ny10025_map*)