



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Traffic Control Signals: 1155 Leslie Street

Date:	February 5, 2010
To:	North York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Division, North York District
Wards:	Ward 25 – Don Valley East
Reference Number:	<i>ny10033</i>

SUMMARY

To obtain approval for the installation of traffic control signals at 1155 Leslie Street.

Traffic studies have revealed that traffic control signals are warranted at this location.

Since the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates a transit service on Leslie Street, City Council approval of this report is required. TTC staff has been consulted on the proposed signal installation and have not objected to the proposal.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services Division, North York District, recommends that City Council:

1. Approve the installation of traffic control signals on Leslie Street at the southerly driveway to 1155 Leslie Street (BMW Canada access).

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated cost of installing the new traffic control signals is approximately \$183,000.00. The Four Seasons Group located at 1165 Leslie Street has agreed to fund this installation.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Transportation Services Division, North York District, over the years has received numerous complaints from the area business community regarding access/egress issues, vehicular speeding and pedestrian crossing difficulties along Leslie Street between 1125 and 1165 Leslie Street and have requested the installation of traffic control signals.

COMMENTS

The following characteristics describe the operating characteristics and adjacent land uses in the area of 1165 Leslie Street in this area:

- Leslie Street is a four-lane major arterial roadway with a centre turning lane.
- Parklands are adjacent to the west side of Leslie Street through this area.
- Leslie Street has a posted speed limit of 60 kilometres per hour (km/h) and a daily traffic volume of approximately 26,000 vehicles per day (vpd).
- Traffic control signals are presently located on Leslie Street at Eglinton Avenue to the south and at Lawrence Avenue to the north.
- Sidewalks are located on both sides of Leslie Street.
- Toronto Transit Commission bus stops for both the northbound and southbound directions are provided at two locations along Leslie Street, opposite 1123 Leslie Street and 1165 Leslie Street.
- Sony Canada is situated at 1121 Leslie Street
- Wrigley's Canada is situated at 1123 Leslie Street
- 1125, 1127 and 1129 Leslie Street (The Wynford Group, H.H Angus Inc. and several other businesses) share a common driveway located at 1129 Leslie Street.
- 1155 Leslie Street (Parkview BMW) has two driveway accesses.
- A second access to 1125, 1127, 1129, 1133 and 1135 can be gained via a shared driveway access with 1155 Leslie Street (southerly access).
- The Four Seasons Group is situated at 1165 Leslie Street.
- Pay Duty Police are deployed during the peak periods to assist vehicles and pedestrian crossings at 1123 Leslie Street (Wrigley Canada) and 1165 Leslie

Street (Four Seasons Group). Pay Duty Police costs are funded by the private property owners at these locations.

- New traffic control signals are to be installed at 1105 Leslie Street (former Inn on the Park access).

Over the past several months, the City of Toronto, Transportation Services Division has studied the feasibility of installing traffic control signals on Leslie Street between 1125 Leslie Street and 1165 Leslie (Four Seasons). This study was initiated in response to the following concerns:

- Pedestrian Safety – pedestrians crossing to and from the TTC bus stops on the west side of Leslie Street.
- Vehicle speeds – high vehicle speeds (85th percentile speeds of 74 km/h) on Leslie Street make it difficult for vehicles to exit the driveways as well as for pedestrians to cross Leslie Street.
- Driveway access/egress – due to vehicle speeds and high traffic volumes it is often difficult for vehicles to enter or exit the various driveways along this section of Leslie Street.
- Collisions – a high number of rear-end collisions occur on this section of roadway due to vehicle queuing often associated with the use of Pay Duty Police at the driveway of 1165 Leslie Street.

Traffic Control Signal Warrant Analysis

To assess the traffic volumes in the area, eight-hour traffic counts were conducted at all the driveways in the area from 1129 Leslie Street to 1165 Leslie Street. Based on these counts, the warrant for traffic control signals at the southerly access to 1155 Leslie Street were satisfied to the following extent:

1. Minimum Vehicular Volume – 74%
2. Delay to Cross Traffic – 100%

In order to meet the technical warrants for the installation of traffic control signals, one warrant needs to be satisfied to 100% or both needs to be satisfied to at least 80%.

The southerly driveway to 1155 Leslie Street provides access for the following properties:

- 1125/1127/1129 – Wynford Group/HH Angus Inc/Angus Construction.

- 1133/1135 – Lawrence Construction, Bertf. Grant Management, Korean Canadian Association.
- 1155 Leslie Street – Parkview BMW.

Collision History

A review of the collision experience was undertaken on Leslie Street from Lawrence Avenue to Eglinton Avenue. The most frequent type of collision to occur on Leslie Street between 1121 and 1165 Leslie Street is rear-end type accidents. In particular, in the vicinity of 1165 Leslie Street there were 15 rear-end accidents recorded in the period of January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2008. Of these 15 accidents, 12 occurred during the times when the driveway to 1165 Leslie Street was under police control. A similar pattern was noted at the access to 1121/1123 Leslie Street (Sony/Wrigley) where 13 rear-end accidents were reported over the three year period with seven occurring during times when the intersection was under police control. These two police controlled locations account for 28 out of a total of 38 rear-end type collisions on this section of Leslie Street, with 19 of the 28 accidents taking place during times when Pay Duty Police are on site.

Under normal conditions, a traffic control signal will tend to reduce right-angle collisions but rear-end type of collisions will potentially increase. We believe that the reason for the higher rear-end accident experience at the police controlled accesses is that drivers do not expect to be stopped nor can they see the police officer as well as they can view traffic signal displays from a distance. This has often been the basis for complaints regarding the deployment of Pay Duty Officers on Leslie Street. Right-angle collisions are generally more severe in both personal injury and property damage. However, the situation which exists on Leslie Street is not a normal condition in that Pay Duty Police provide control during the peak periods. It is believed that due to police control at 1165 and 1121/1123 Leslie Street right-angle collisions were not experienced during the most recent three year period. It is estimated however that without police control these locations would have experienced some right-angle collisions based on the collision experience at adjacent uncontrolled accesses which have similar or lower vehicle volumes. It is therefore anticipated that the installation of traffic control signals in the vicinity of 1155 Leslie Street will likely reduce the rear-end collision experience, as the traffic control signal display will be more visible than the Pay Duty Officers.

Analysis

Based on the data collected and the analysis undertaken, Transportation Services supports the installation of traffic control signals at the joint access located on the southerly limit of 1155 Leslie Street for the following reasons:

- The joint access experiences the highest volume of traffic of any of the accesses on Leslie Street in this area.
- Observations during the afternoon peak period indicate that northbound traffic, when stopped by Pay Duty Police at 1165 Leslie Street, often queues back south of 1155 Leslie Street. This requires that left turning vehicles outbound from the accesses south of 1165 Leslie Street must rely on “courtesy gaps” through the northbound traffic queue.
- A traffic signal at this location would provide benefits to all the properties in the area. Through interconnecting driveways and parking lots, traffic from 1125 to 1155 Leslie Street are able to gain access to this proposed traffic signal. This is especially beneficial for left turn movements out of these properties since this movement can be problematic during the peak periods.
- The Toronto Transit Commission has indicated that, if signalized, the southbound bus stop on the west side of Leslie Street opposite 1165 Leslie Street would be relocated south to the new traffic signal. A protected signalized crossing for pedestrians would significantly improve pedestrian crossing safety.

A traffic signal at 1155 Leslie Street, while not immediately at the driveway to 1165 Leslie Street, would provide benefits to movements at 1165 Leslie Street. These benefits would occur in the following manner:

- When northbound traffic is stopped at the proposed signal, this would create gaps in northbound flow. This would allow inbound left turn movements as well as outbound movements to occur. This would benefit not only 1165 Leslie Street traffic but also traffic at the north side access to 1155 Leslie Street.
- Contingent with the installation of a traffic signal at the joint access, the centre median pedestrian refuge island opposite 1165 Leslie Street would be removed. This island would no longer be needed since the southbound TTC stop would be relocated south to the new traffic signal. By removing the median pedestrians would no longer have a refuge island and would feel comfortable crossing at the traffic control signal. Also, with the centre median refuge island removed, outbound left turning vehicles from 1165 Leslie Street would be able to enter the centre median area and then merge into the southbound flow. This is currently not possible due to the presence of the island.
- Pay Duty Police during the peak periods will not be required at 1165 Leslie Street. Similarly the deployment of Pay Duty Police at 1123 Leslie Street (Wrigley Canada) will cease in conjunction with the new signal installation at 1105 Leslie Street in conjunction with the southbound TTC stop relocation from opposite 1123 Leslie Street to this new traffic signal.

CONCLUSION

Overall, pedestrian safety, traffic operations will improve and there is expected to be a reduction in rear-end collisions on Leslie Street with the installation of traffic signals at 1155 Leslie Street in combination with the new traffic signal to be installed at 1105 Leslie Street.

Councillor Cliff Jenkins is aware of the proposal to install traffic control signals at the subject location.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment: Map – Proposed Traffic Control Signal 1155 Leslie St (*ny10033_map*)