

Yonge Street Traffic Management – Implementation Time Lines

Date:	July 28, 2010
To:	North York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Division, North York District
Wards:	Ward 23 - Willowdale
Reference Number:	<i>ny10120</i>

SUMMARY

To report on the time lines to implement the planned improvements and interim measures identified in the 1998 Downtown Plan South of Sheppard Avenue Environmental Assessment Report and the 2009 Yonge Street Traffic Management Study.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Receive this report for information.

Financial Impacts

There are no financial impacts associated with this report.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

City Council, as it's meeting on July 6 and 7, 2010, adopted Councillor Filion's Notice of Motion contained within Item NY35.53 Yonge Street Traffic Management Study – Final Report, requesting the Director, Transportation Services, North York District, report back to North York Community Council on the time lines to implement the planned improvements and interim measures identified in the Yonge Street Traffic Management Plan and to include other feasible transportation improvements that could benefit the area.

COMMENTS

The 1998 Downtown Plan South of Sheppard Avenue Environmental Assessment Report have identified a number of ultimate improvements that can address the existing traffic constraints including delays and queuing along the arterial road network and potentially address the traffic infiltration issues. The Yonge Street Traffic Management Study identified a number of interim improvements that could be implemented in the short term to address the congestion.

Avondale Avenue Lane Reconfiguration

While the ultimate configuration of the intersection of Avondale Avenue and Yonge Street will consist of three lanes in the westbound direction, this will require the widening of the roadway to accommodate an additional westbound lane. The additional property needs will be acquired through the future development needs.

There is no anticipated time line for completion of the ultimate configuration as it will be dependant on the development process.

In order to alleviate some of the congestion, the interim option would be to convert one existing eastbound lane to a westbound lane. This would provide two westbound left turn lanes, and an exclusive westbound right turn lane. There would also be one eastbound lane. As there are no through movements permitted at this intersection, lane modifications are not needed to the eastbound lanes.

Transportation Services will begin investigating the feasibility of this option with a recommendation scheduled for the Winter 2011. If acceptable, the lane reconfiguration could be accomplished by the Summer 2011.

Doris Avenue/Sheppard Avenue Intersection Configuration

The ultimate configuration of this intersection calls for the extension of Doris Avenue to Avondale Avenue. The original configuration originally approved through the environmental assessment process, requires additional property to be purchased by the City. It also shows an alignment that will require reconfiguration of an existing office building at-grade and underground parking lots, including the entrance/exit ramps to the underground garage.

Staff has since identified another alternative configuration which will avoid encroaching into the office building underground parking lot and entrance/exit ramps. The proposed configuration has the new road shifted to the east and will create a short offset signalized intersection between Doris Avenue and Sheppard Avenue, and will still require additional property to be purchased. As this alternative deviates from the original approved

configuration, an amendment to the original environmental assessment study is required. Transportation Services is scheduled to initiate the amendment to the existing Downtown Plan South of Sheppard Avenue EA study in 2011. It is anticipated that the study will be completed within 12 to 18 months.

If the necessary property acquisition has been completed, the design and construction of the extension of Doris Avenue to Avondale Avenue will be scheduled for completion by 2015. If the property acquisition is not resolved by 2012, Transportation Services will then implement an interim solution that will be completed by 2015, with the anticipation that the extension of Doris Avenue to Avondale Avenue will be completed no later than 2020.

The interim solution includes signaling the intersections of Doris Avenue/Bonnington Place/Sheppard Avenue, temporarily realignment of Bonnington Place to intersect with Tradewind Avenue and Anndale Drive. This interim measure will also require the need for property acquisition to complete the realignment of Bonnington Place with Anndale Drive/Tradewind Avenue. Other modifications will include the restriction of traffic movements at commercial accesses along Sheppard Avenue East.

Extension of Anndale Drive to Yonge Street

Construction of Anndale Drive between Tradewind Avenue and Bales Avenue has commenced and will consist of one lane in each direction. It is scheduled to be completed in 2010. The connection of Anndale Drive from Bales Avenue to Yonge Street will be completed as part of the Hullmark Development. This section will have a westbound left turn lane, a westbound shared thru and right turn lane, and one eastbound lane. The connection of Anndale Drive to Yonge Street will also have to be designed to align with Poyntz Avenue. This is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2013.

As part of the Anndale Drive connection to Yonge Street, Poyntz Avenue between Beecroft Road and Yonge Street will be widened to accommodate two westbound lanes, one eastbound left turn lane, one eastbound thru lane, and two eastbound right turn lanes. To accommodate the addition of 2 lanes, the additional property needed has been acquired through the development of sites within the area. This widening is scheduled to be completed by 2013 to coincide with the completion of the Anndale Drive connection to Yonge Street.

West Service Road (Beecroft Road)

Currently Beecroft Road begins at Poyntz Avenue and ends at Finch Avenue West, with a missing segment from Ellerslie Avenue to Kempford Boulevard. The alignment design of this segment of roadway has been completed and construction will begin in 2011. Once this segment is completed in 2011, Beecroft Road will be a continuous link from Poyntz Avenue to Finch Avenue West.

Currently, the continuation of Beecroft Road north of Finch Avenue West has no time lines for design construction. Once the Doris Avenue and Sheppard Avenue East intersection is completed, staff will then begin to focus on the extension of Beecroft Road north of Finch Avenue West to Drewry Drive.

Centre Median along Yonge Street (Sheppard Avenue East to Avondale Avenue)

In order to alleviate some traffic congestion on Yonge Street, the construction of the centre median should be completed from Sheppard Avenue East to Avondale Avenue. Transportation staff will investigate the completion of the median with future development applications.

In summary, Transportation Services Division is actively working on implementing the planned improvements and interim measures identified in the 1998 Downtown Plan South of Sheppard Avenue Environmental Assessment Report and the 2009 Yonge Street Traffic Management Study.

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SIGNATURE

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