



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Left-Turn Prohibition – Eastern Avenue and Empire Avenue

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| Date: | December 7, 2009 |
| To: | Toronto and East York Community Council |
| From: | Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District |
| Wards: | Toronto-Danforth, Ward 30 |
| Reference Number: | Ts09192te.top.doc |

SUMMARY

Transportation Services is requesting approval from City Council to prohibit eastbound left turns from Eastern Avenue to Empire Avenue between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., Monday to Friday in order to reduce non-resident traffic.

The eastbound left-turn prohibition will reduce traffic on Empire Avenue during the weekday afternoon peak period and will not negatively impact TTC bus service along Eastern Avenue. An increase in traffic volume on adjacent northbound streets could be expected as a result of the turn prohibition.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that City Council:

1. Prohibit eastbound left turns from Eastern Avenue to Empire Avenue between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., except Saturday, Sunday, and public holidays (bicycles excepted).

Financial Impact

| Type of Funding | Source of Funds | Amount |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------|
| Available within current budget | Transportation Services Division Interim 2010 Operating Budget | \$ 300.00 |

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Transportation Services reviewed the feasibility of prohibiting eastbound left turns from Eastern Avenue on to Empire Avenue between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, in response to a request from Councillor Paula Fletcher on behalf of a local

resident. The resident expressed a concern about the volume of non-resident commuter traffic traveling northbound on Empire Avenue during the afternoon peak period.

COMMENTS

Eastern Avenue, between Broadview Avenue and Logan Avenue, is a four-lane east/west major arterial road. Empire Avenue is a local road operating one-way northbound from Eastern Avenue to Queen Street East, two blocks west of Logan Avenue, having a daily traffic volume of approximately 700 vehicles. The Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates the 143 Downtown / Beach Express bus route along Eastern Avenue during the weekday morning and afternoon peak periods.

Transportation Services conducted a peak 8-hour traffic count on a typical weekday in November of 2008 at the intersection of Eastern Avenue and Empire Avenue. Over the period of the study, 265 vehicles made an eastbound left turn onto Empire Avenue, with the peak two-hour volume being recorded between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., when 161 vehicles made an eastbound left turn from Eastern Avenue.

It is feasible to implement an eastbound left-turn prohibition between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, at the intersection of Eastern Avenue and Empire Avenue. The turn prohibition would reduce traffic volume on Empire Avenue during the weekday late afternoon/early evening period. Empire Avenue residents would also be subject to the left-turn prohibition and as a result, may be required to take an alternate and longer route home. Cyclists would be exempt from the left-turn prohibition.

The left-turn prohibition could lead to an increase in traffic on adjacent northbound streets, such as Logan Avenue to the east, and Lewis Street, a local road to the west, which operates one-way northbound from Eastern Avenue to Queen Street East, one block east of Broadview Avenue. The turn prohibition will not negatively impact TTC bus service along Eastern Avenue.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Peter Noehammer, P. Eng.
Director, Transportation Services

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

(1) Drawing No. 421F-9853, dated November 2009

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