

Roadway Alteration and Sidewalk Construction – Leeds Street and Roblocke Avenue

Date:	April 6, 2010
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District
Wards:	Trinity-Spadina, Ward 19
Reference Number:	Ts10035te.top.doc

SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter for which Community Council has delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision.

Transportation Services is requesting approval to widen the north side of Leeds Street and the west side of Roblocke Avenue for the purposes of constructing parking lay-bys fronting and flanking St. Mary's Ukrainian Church (30 Leeds Street) and providing a sidewalk along the west side of Roblocke Avenue.

Construction of these lay-bys off the traveled portion of Leeds Street and Roblocke Avenue that will facilitate 12 additional parking spaces on these streets for persons attending St. Mary's Ukrainian Church, visitors, and local residents.

The installation of a sidewalk on the west side of Roblocke Avenue, north of Leeds Street will enhance pedestrian safety.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Approve the widening of Leeds Street, from a width of about 8.5 metres to a width of about 10.7 metres by the construction of a lay-by on the north side of Leeds Street, from a point 6.1 metres west of Roblocke Avenue to a point 40.3 metres further west, generally as shown on the attached print of Drawing No. 421F-9896, dated January 2010.

2. Approve the widening of Roblocke Avenue, from a width of 8.8 metres to a width of about 11.0 metres by the construction of a lay-by on the west side of Roblocke Avenue, from a point 12.1 metres north of Leeds Street to a point 74.6 metres further north, including the construction of a 1.7 metre wide sidewalk, generally as shown on the attached print of Drawing No. 421F-9896, dated January 2010.
3. In conjunction with the widening of Leeds Street and Roblocke Avenue outlined in Recommendations 1 and 2:
 - (a) Rescind the parking regulations outlined in Appendix “A” of this report; and
 - (b) Implement the parking regulations outlined in Appendix “B” of this report.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The Transportation Services Division 2010 Capital Budget includes funding in the amount of \$2 million dollars for new sidewalk construction. These funds have already been allocated to previously approved projects. If Community Council recommends widening Leeds Street and Roblocke Avenue and constructing a sidewalk on the west side of Roblocke Avenue, the estimated cost will be about \$140,000.00. Scheduling and construction will be subject to funding availability and competing priorities.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

At the request of Deputy Mayor Joe Pantalone, staff of Transportation Services has reviewed the feasibility of widening the north side of Leeds Street and the west side of Roblocke Avenue, fronting and flanking St. Mary’s Ukrainian Church, to construct parking lay-bys and a 1.7 metre wide sidewalk on the west side of Roblocke Avenue.

COMMENTS

Current Conditions

Leeds Street, between Ossington Avenue and Shaw Street is a local road operating two-way in an east-west direction. The pavement width is 8.5 metres and the maximum speed limit is 40 km/h. Parking is allowed on the south side of the street for a maximum period of three hours, except between the hours of 12:01 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. when permit parking is in effect. Parking is prohibited at all times on the north side of the street.

Roblocke Avenue, from Leeds Street to its north limit is a local road operating two-way in a north-south direction. The pavement width is 8.8 metres and the maximum speed limit is 40 km/h. Parking is currently allowed on the west side of the street for a maximum period of one-hour (unsigned at this time), except between the hours of 12:01 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. when permit parking is in effect. Parking is prohibited at all times on the west side of the street.

TTC service does not operate on either Leeds Street or Roblocke Avenue.

There is significant demand for parking in the vicinity of St. Mary's Ukrainian Church during times of church services. This often results in motorists parking illegally on the north side of Leeds Street, narrowing the traveled portion of the road and creating a potentially hazardous situation.

Proposal

Transportation Services proposes to widen the north side of Leeds Street, between a point 6.1 metres west of Roblocke Avenue and a point 40.3 metres further west by constructing a 2.2-metre wide lay-by, generally as shown on the attached print of Drawing No. 421F-9896, dated January 2010. This proposal will provide lay-by containing a total of 5 parking spaces off the travelled portion of the road fronting St. Mary's Ukrainian Church and maintain a sidewalk 2.2 metres in width along the north side of the street.

The proposal also includes widening the west side of Roblocke Avenue, between a point 12.1 metres north of Leeds Street and the cul-de-sac 74.6 metres further north by constructing a lay-by 2.2 metres in width and a 1.7 metre wide sidewalk, generally as shown on the attached print of Drawing No. 421F-9896, dated January, 2010. The proposed lay-by, off the travelled portion of the road, will widen the road sufficiently to also allow parking on the east side of the street, resulting in an increase of 7 parking spaces on this street.

Impacts

Widening the west side of Roblocke Avenue will require the removal or relocation of three trees. Staff is consulting with Parks Forestry Division about this matter.

There is some general concern about the installation of lay-bys. They typically reduce the width of the boulevard/sidewalk and negatively impact on pedestrians by redirecting them from their normal walking course. This is a particular concern for people who are blind or have limited vision. In this case, pedestrians will be diverted but a suitable sidewalk width will be maintained on Leeds Street and the proposal includes construction of a sidewalk on the west side of Roblocke Avenue where one currently does not exist.

Parking in the reconstructed lay-by sections of Leeds Street and Roblocke Avenue is intended to serve a dual purpose of enhancing parking opportunity on weekends for visitors/persons attending church services and provide additional parking for residents. To facilitate both requirements, staff recommends allowing parking by permit only within the lay-bys from 12:01 a.m. to 7:00 a.m., Monday to Friday, and allowing parking for a maximum period of two hours, from 7:00 a.m. to midnight, Monday to Friday and at all times Saturday and Sunday.

The permit parking regulations on the south side of Leeds Street and on the east side of Roblocke Avenue will apply seven days a week. However, permit holders will not be exempt from the two-hour parking regulation on weekends within the lay-bys on the north side of Leeds Street and on the west side of Roblocke Avenue.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Peter Noehammer, P.Eng.
Director, Transportation Services

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Drawing No. 421F-9886, dated January 2010
- (2) Appendix "A"
- (3) Appendix "B"

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