

Road Alteration - Eastwood Road

Date:	June 4, 2010
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District
Wards:	Beaches-East York, Ward 32
Reference Number:	Ts10075te.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 seeking authority to narrow the width of Eastwood Road, between Coxwell Avenue and Bowmore Road, as part of the scheduled reconstruction of the roadway in late 2010.

Narrowing Eastwood Road would likely improve traffic operations and enhance pedestrian safety. Additionally, there will be more area for landscaping. It would not result in the loss of any parking spaces.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council approve:

1. The alteration of Eastwood Road, between Coxwell Avenue and Bowmore Road, by narrowing of the roadway, generally as shown in the attached prints of Drawing No. 421G-0016, 421G-0017, 421G-0018, dated May 2010.

Financial Impact

The costs associated with the proposed narrowing of Eastwood Road, between Coxwell Avenue and Bowmore Road, will be included in the cost of reconstructing the roadway as part of the 2010 Transportation Services Capital Programme.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Eastwood Road, between Coxwell Avenue and Bowmore Road is being reconstructed as part of the 2010 Transportation Services Capital Programme. Transportation Services and Technical Services have reviewed the operation and design of this roadway. In consultation with Councillor Bussin and local residents we have identified changes that would better reflect the residential nature of the roadway and improve the pedestrian environment.

COMMENTS

Existing Conditions

Eastwood Road is a two-lane collector roadway that runs east from the signalized intersection with Coxwell Avenue to Woodbine Avenue. Lower Gerrard Street East forms the west leg of the intersection with Coxwell Avenue. Upper Gerrard Street East runs east from Coxwell Avenue one block north of Eastwood Road. There is no TTC service on Eastwood Road.

The section of Eastwood Road between Coxwell Avenue and Bowmore Road (about halfway to Woodbine Avenue) is 14.1 metres wide with speed humps and a 30 km/h speed limit. There is a pedestrian crossover on Eastwood Road at Highcroft Road, two streets east of Coxwell Avenue. Parking is generally allowed on both sides of this section of Eastwood Road but by permit only from 12:01 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.

At 14.1 metres wide this section of Eastwood Road is wider than a typical collector roadway. Also, the pavement markings on Eastwood Road indicate that there is one lane each direction but the lanes are wide enough for motorists to pass each other within the lane. Furthermore, the sidewalks on both sides of the road are narrow and adjacent to the curb.

Proposed Road Alterations

We are proposing that Eastwood Road, between Coxwell Avenue and Bowmore Road, be narrowed to 11.4 metres wide from 14.1 metres wide. This would result in a single 3.5 metre wide eastbound and westbound lane and 2.2 metre wide parking lay-bys on both sides of the road. Also, the curb would be built out at adjacent intersections, including Gainsborough Road, Highcroft Avenue and Edgewood Road, and midblock, between Coxwell Avenue and Gainsborough Road. At these locations there would be a single 3.5 metre wide eastbound and westbound lane.

Public Consultation

A public meeting was held in spring 2009 to present the proposed narrowing of Eastwood Road to local residents and solicit comment. The following is a summary of those comments:

- Want wider sidewalks;
- Would like hydro poles relocated or eliminated to allow for wider sidewalks;
- Don't want to maintain grass boulevard, suggested brick or alternative material;
- Want trees in boulevard;
- Want speed humps removed;
- Want larger speed humps;
- Want appearance of intersection of Coxwell Avenue and Eastwood Road improved;
- Want parking limits extended in front of Premises Nos. 139 to 143 Eastwood Road; and
- Want bike lanes.

A subsequent public meeting was held on May 26, 2010 to present the revised narrowing plan that incorporated most of the comments received. We were able to provide wider sidewalks on both sides of the road and a brick boulevard instead of grass in front of homes without existing grass front yards. The other suggestions were not feasible or within the scope of the narrowing of Eastwood Road. Reactions to this revised plan were generally positive.

Benefits and Impacts

The proposed narrowing would result in the following improvements to the traffic and pedestrian environment on Eastwood Road;

- Elimination of motorist confusion regarding the number of lanes;
- Possible reduction of vehicle speeds;
- Widening of sidewalks on both sides of the road;
- Reduced crossing distance and increased visibility for pedestrians at intersections;
- Separation of pedestrians from the traveled portion of the roadway;
- Area for trees and other landscape improvements;
- Creation of a boulevard on both sides of the road, between the sidewalk and front yards;
- Opportunity to construct lay-by with permeable surface; and
- Emphasizes that Eastwood Road is a collector roadway accessing a local community, not a continuation of Gerrard Street East.

The narrowing would not result in a reduction of roadway capacity, nor result in the loss of any parking spaces. The speed humps would be replaced as well. Also, the lane configuration at the intersection of Eastwood Road and Coxwell Avenue would be unchanged because the narrowing would end 30.5 metres east of the intersection.

The narrowing would occur as part of the scheduled reconstruction of the roadway in late 2010. Attached Drawing Nos. 421G-0016, 421G-0017, 421G-0018 shows the proposed changes to Eastwood Road, between Coxwell Avenue and Bowmore Road.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Peter Noehammer, P. Eng.
Director, Transportation Services

ATTACHMENTS

Drawing Nos. 421G-0016, 421G-0017, 421G-0018, dated May 2010

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