



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

**Pedestrian Traffic Control Signal – Lake Shore
Boulevard West at Dowling Avenue**

Date:	May 28, 2010
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District
Wards:	Parkdale-High Park, Ward 14
Reference Number:	Ts10081te.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 from Toronto East York Community Council to install a pedestrian traffic control signal on Lake Shore Boulevard West at Dowling Avenue, in accordance with Item EX33.20, containing a staff report (May 15, 2009) entitled “Western Waterfront Master Plan” from the Deputy City Manager, that was adopted by City Council at its meeting of August 5 and 6, 2009. The installation of a pedestrian traffic control signal on Lake Shore Boulevard West at Dowling Avenue will provide a safe and effective crossing area for pedestrians/cyclists accessing the waterfront.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Approve the installation of a pedestrian traffic control signal on Lake Shore Boulevard West at Dowling Avenue.

Financial Impact

The estimated cost of installing a pedestrian traffic control signal on Lake Shore Boulevard West at Dowling Avenue is approximately \$100,000. Funds in the amount of \$2,450,000 have been allocated in the 2010 Transportation Services Capital Budget for

installation of traffic control signals. This work would be subject to competing priorities and available funding.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Transportation Services was requested by Councillor Gord Perks to report on the installation of a pedestrian traffic control signal on Lake Shore Boulevard West at Dowling Avenue to enhance crossing safety for pedestrians and cyclists, as identified in the Western Waterfront Master Plan.

COMMENTS

Lake Shore Boulevard West is a major arterial roadway with a pavement width of about 18 metres. It carries a daily, two-way traffic volume of approximately 60,000 vehicles and has a maximum speed limit of 60 km/h. Lake Shore Boulevard West consists of a six-lane cross section at Dowling Avenue. Access to and from Dowling Avenue is restricted by means of right-in and right-out channelized traffic lanes. Currently southbound traffic on Dowling Avenue is stop sign controlled.

The Master Plan provides an overall vision for parkland, beaches, break walls, trails, promenades, roads, bridges, servicing and recreational facilities within the Western Waterfront.

The plan has three phases: short (1-5 years), medium (5-20 years) and long term initiatives (20+ years). The short-term projects focus on more readily achievable and affordable initiatives. Medium and long term projects are more expensive and may require further study prior to implementation.

One of the short term initiatives identified was providing improved pedestrian and cycling north/south connections between neighbourhoods and the waterfront through the installation of a pedestrian traffic control signal on Lake Shore Boulevard West at Dowling Avenue.

The attached print of Drawing No. 421G-0020, dated May 2010 shows the proposed location of the pedestrian traffic control signals. Staff notes that locating the signals directly at Dowling Avenue might be problematic and to enhance operation and safety for pedestrians, the signals might need to be installed slightly further west. This will be confirmed during the final design for the signal plant.

CONCLUSION

The Western Waterfront Master Plan recognizes the tensions between the role of the Western Waterfront as an important waterfront park space and as a transportation corridor. It identifies the need to change the location and character of Lake Shore Boulevard West as a fundamental step toward expanding and improving the waterfront parklands.

Introduction of a signalized pedestrian crossing on Lake Shore Boulevard West at or in the immediate proximity of Dowling Avenue will provide pedestrians and cyclists with a safe and efficient means of crossing Lake Shore Boulevard West to access the waterfront, and is recommended.

Installation of this pedestrian traffic control signal is subject to funding availability and scheduling.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Peter Noehammer, P.Eng.
Director, Transportation Services

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

(1) Drawing No 421G-0020, dated May 2010

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