



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

Temporary Traffic Controls and Lane Closure – Lake Shore Boulevard West

Date:	July 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:	Ts10127te.top.doc

SUMMARY

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

Transportation Services is requesting approval to introduce several temporary regulatory changes on Lake Shore Boulevard West and on Jameson Avenue during the rehabilitation of three bridges crossing the F.G. Gardiner Expressway in the western waterfront area.

Staff propose: an eastbound left-turn prohibition on Lake Shore Boulevard West at Jameson Avenue; a northbound an southbound straight-through prohibition on Jameson Avenue at the temporary entrance/exit to Marilyn Bell Park at Lake Shore Boulevard West for the duration of the 2010 Canadian National Exhibition; a northbound left-turn prohibition on Jameson Avenue to the westbound F.G. Gardiner entrance ramp; a northbound U-turn prohibition on Jameson Avenue, north of Springhurst Avenue; an eastbound left-turn prohibition on Lake Shore Boulevard West to the eastbound F. G. Gardiner entrance ramp at British Columbia Road; an eastbound U-turn prohibition from eastbound Lake Shore Boulevard West onto westbound Lake Shore Boulevard West at British Columbia Road; and rescission of the prohibited entry regulation during the afternoon rush period to the F. G. Gardiner entrance ramp from westbound Lake Shore Boulevard West at Jameson Avenue.

These temporary traffic control measures will improve traffic operation by reducing operational conflicts and traffic congestion at the signalized intersections on Lake Shore Boulevard West and on Jameson Avenue for the duration of the construction period.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Prohibit left-turns, from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Monday to Friday by eastbound traffic on Lake Shore Boulevard West at Jameson Avenue (temporary south intersection).
2. Prohibit straight-through movement at all times by southbound traffic on Jameson Avenue at Lake Shore Boulevard West (temporary south intersection), from August 20, 2010 to September 6, 2010, inclusive.
3. Prohibit straight-through movement at all times by northbound traffic from the Marilyn Bell Park exit at Lake Shore Boulevard West (temporary south intersection), from August 20, 2010 to September 6, 2010, inclusive.
4. Prohibit left-turns at all times by northbound traffic on Jameson Avenue at the westbound entrance ramp onto the F.G. Gardiner Expressway.
5. Prohibit U-turns at all times by northbound traffic on Jameson Avenue, between Springhurst Avenue and King Street West.
6. Prohibit left-turns at all times by eastbound traffic on Lake Shore Boulevard West at British Columbia Road to the eastbound F. G. Gardiner Expressway entrance ramp.
7. Prohibit U-turns at all times by eastbound traffic on Lake Shore Boulevard West to westbound Lake Shore Boulevard West at British Columbia Road.
8. Approve the temporary closure of the eastbound left-turn lane on Lake Shore Boulevard West at British Columbia Road, generally as shown on the print of Drawing No. 421G-0094, dated July, 2010, attached to the report dated July 28, 2010, entitled, "Temporary Traffic Controls and Lane Closure – Lake Shore Boulevard West", from the Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District.
9. Rescind the "Prohibited Entry, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday" regulation at the westbound entrance ramp to the F. G. Gardiner Expressway from westbound Lake Shore Boulevard West at Jameson Avenue.

Financial Impact

The estimated cost for installing the various required signs and lane closure is \$2,000.00, fund for which are available in the Transportation Services 2010 Operating Budget.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Work to rehabilitate the three bridges over the F.G. Gardiner Expressway, including a temporary diversion of the westbound lanes of Lake Shore Boulevard West, between British Columbia Road and Dowling Avenue has commenced. Opening of the new westbound section of Lake Shore Boulevard West is slated for August, 2010. To manage vehicular traffic on Lake Shore Boulevard West and Jameson Avenue during the construction period, Transportation Services has determined that implementation of several temporary turn prohibitions/traffic control measures is advisable.

COMMENTS

As part of the reconstruction of the three bridges over the F.G. Gardiner Expressway, between British Columbia Road and Dowling Avenue, a section of westbound Lake Shore Boulevard West must be temporarily diverted southward to directly parallel the westbound lanes of Lake Shore Boulevard West. In conjunction with the diversion, a temporary traffic control signal is being installed at the new south intersection of Jameson Avenue and Lake Shore Boulevard West. To address potential operational and safety issues associated with the road diversion and bridge rehabilitation work, installation of the following measures described below is recommended.

1) Lake Shore Boulevard West at Jameson Avenue (temporary south intersection)

The rehabilitation to the Jameson Avenue bridge over the F.G. Gardiner Expressway has resulted in the closure of the eastbound exit ramp to northbound Jameson Avenue. Vehicular traffic destined for the Parkdale community north of Lake Shore Boulevard West will be diverted along Lake Shore Boulevard and have to enter Jameson Avenue at a temporary traffic control signal being installed at the new south intersection of Jameson Avenue/Lake Shore Boulevard West. Given the constraints of the new temporary intersection it is not feasible to provide an exclusive eastbound left-turn lane at this location. To minimize traffic congestion and maximize eastbound capacity along Lake Shore Boulevard West during the morning rush period it is necessary to prohibit eastbound left-turns from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Monday to Friday on Lake Shore Boulevard West at Jameson Avenue (temporary south branch), generally as shown on the attached print of Drawing No. 421G-0095, dated July, 2010.

At the request of the Director of Operations, Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) a temporary entrance to parking within Marilyn Bell Park will be provided on the south side of Lake Shore Boulevard West, opposite Jameson Avenue. This entrance will lead to an overflow parking lot within Marilyn Bell Park for visitors to the 2010 CNE. The temporary traffic signals being installed at Jameson Avenue (south intersection) and Lake Shore Boulevard West will enhance safety for vehicles entering/exiting the park to/from eastbound and westbound Lake Shore Boulevard West. To minimize traffic conflicts/congestion at this temporary intersection and reduce traffic infiltration through the Parkdale community, staff recommend prohibiting the northbound and southbound straight-through movements between Jameson Avenue and Marilyn Bell Park for the

duration of the Canadian National Exhibition (August 20 to September 6, 2010), generally as shown on print of drawing No. 421G-0095, dated July, 2010.

2) Jameson Avenue at the westbound entrance ramp to F.G. Gardiner Expressway

Jameson Avenue will be restricted to a single lane in each direction during the construction period. To minimize delay and maintain unobstructed northbound traffic flow, installation of a northbound left-turn prohibition at all times from Jameson Avenue onto the F.G. Gardiner Expressway entrance ramp is recommended, generally as shown on the print of Drawing No. 421G-0096, dated July, 2010.

In conjunction with this regulation, staff also recommends:

- installing a “No U-turn” regulation on Jameson Avenue, between Springhurst Avenue and King Street West, to discourage northbound motorists from travelling further north on Jameson Avenue then turning around to access the entrance ramp from southbound Jameson Avenue; and
- rescinding the entry prohibition, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, to the F. G. Gardiner Expressway entrance ramp from Lake Shore Boulevard West (and from Jameson Avenue), to provide southbound motorists and residents of the Parkdale community with access to the westbound F. G. Gardiner Expressway at all times for the duration of the bridge reconstruction project.

Of note, given the definition of a U-turn, prohibiting U-turns will not necessarily prevent northbound motorists from turning around by using a private driveway along this section of Jameson Avenue.

3) Lake Shore Boulevard West at British Columbia Road

The road alignment of the new temporary section of westbound Lake Shore Boulevard West, between British Columbia Road and Dowling Avenue changes the configuration of this intersection making certain eastbound turning movements currently allowed at this intersection potentially more hazardous.

Currently a short left-turn lane and through traffic lane enable eastbound vehicular traffic on Lake Shore Boulevard West to make a left turn (essentially a U-turn) onto westbound Lake Shore Boulevard West, a left turn onto the entrance ramp to the eastbound F.G. Gardiner Expressway, or continue across the westbound lanes of Lake Shore Boulevard West into Exhibition Place by way of British Columbia Road. The movements from the left-turn lane onto westbound Lake Shore Boulevard West and onto eastbound F.G. Gardiner Expressway often conflict with traffic turning onto westbound Lake Shore Boulevard West from British Columbia Road by way of a double westbound right-turn lane. All eastbound/westbound movements occur at the same time resulting in a crossing conflict between turning vehicles and a potential safety risk to motorists. This situation will worsen with the temporary realignment of westbound Lake Shore Boulevard West.

To enhance operational safety at this intersection staff recommends prohibiting eastbound left-turns from Lake Shore Boulevard West at British Columbia Road to the eastbound F. G. Gardiner Expressway entrance ramp, and U-turns from eastbound Lake Shore Boulevard West to westbound Lake Shore Boulevard West at British Columbia Road. To reinforce these turn prohibitions the left turn lane on Lake Shore Boulevard West at British Columbia Road will be temporarily closed, generally as shown on the print of Drawing No. 421G-0094, dated July, 2010.

Motorists seeking access to the eastbound F.G. Gardiner Expressway will be required to travel further east along Lake Shore Boulevard West to the Rees Street entrance ramp.

Councillor Gord Perks has been consulted on these matters.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Peter Noehammer, P.Eng.
Director, Transportation Services

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Drawing No. 421G-0094, dated July, 2010
- (2) Drawing No. 421G-0095, dated July, 2010
- (3) Drawing No. 421G-0096, dated July, 2010

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