



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Road Alteration – Queens Quay West, East of Eireann Quay

Date:	July 20, 2010
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District
Wards:	Trinity-Spadina, Ward 20
Reference Number:	Ts10124te.top.doc

SUMMARY

Transportation Services is requesting approval from City Council to widen the south side of Queens Quay West, from a point about 56 metres east of Eireann Quay to a point about 26 metres further east to provide a lay-by for persons picking up or dropping off children or other passengers attending programs at Harbourfront Community Centre and daycare centre.

The lay-by will widen the eastbound branch of Queens Quay West by about 3 metres, ranging from a width of 5.5 metres to 8.5 metres.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council approve the widening of the eastbound branch of Queens Quay West, from a width of 5.5 metres to a width ranging between 5.5 metres and 8.5 metres by realigning the south curb to provide a lay-by from a point about 56 metres east of Eireann Quay to a point about 26 metres further east, generally as shown on the attached print of Drawing No. 421G-0106, dated July 2010, attached to the report dated July 20, 2010 entitled, “Road Alteration – Queens Quay West, east of Eireann Quay”, from the Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District.
2. City Council rescind the redundant “No Stopping at Anytime” regulation on the south side of Queens Quay West, from Bathurst Street to a point 55 metres further east.

3. Contingent upon the approval of Recommendation 1, City Council rescind the “No Stopping at Anytime” regulation on the south side of Queens Quay West, from Bathurst Street to Lower Spadina Avenue
4. Contingent upon the approval of Recommendation 1, City Council prohibit stopping at all times on the south side of Queens Quay West:
 - a. from Eireann Quay to a point 56 metres east; and
 - b. from a point 82 metres east of Eireann Quay to Lower Spadina Avenue.
5. Contingent upon the approval of Recommendation 1, City Council prohibit standing at all times on the south side of Queens Quay West, from a point 56 metres east of Eireann Quay to a point 26 metres further east.

Financial Impact

The cost for this road alteration in the estimated amount of \$65,000.00 is being funded by the Facilities and Real Estate Division. Funds for the Harbourfront Community Centre Lay-by Project are provided in their account No. CCA 169-01.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

At the request of the Harbourfront Community Centre, 627 Queens Quay West, the Facilities and Real Estate Division has requested Transportation Services to review their proposal to reconstruct the south curb of Queens Quay West and provide a lay-by in which motorists may stop to pick-up/drop-off passengers at the community centre and daycare centre.

COMMENTS

Site description

Queens Quay West is a minor arterial road, operating two-way on an overall road width of about 22 metres. Eastbound and westbound traffic flow is separated by a raised centre median that functions as a TTC right-of-way for the “509-Harbourfront” streetcar. The eastbound branch of Queens Quay West (south of the streetcar right-of-way) has a pavement width of 5.5 metres, which provides one lane for eastbound motorised traffic and a bicycle lane along the south curb of Queens Quay West. Stopping is prohibited at all times on the south side of Queens Quay West, from Eireann Quay (formerly Bathurst Street) to Lower Spadina Avenue. Harbourfront Community Centre is located on the south side of Queens Quay West, about 50 metres east of Eireann Quay.

Investigation

The Harbourfront Community Centre and daycare centre generate significant vehicular activity throughout the day that requires motorists to stop for short periods of time when picking up or dropping off passengers. In addition, persons with physical disabilities often need to be dropped off or picked up by WheelTrans buses. A vehicle transporting a physically disabled person may stop momentarily in the bicycle lane while the vehicle is actively engaged in picking up or dropping off a disabled person but other vehicles may

not. However, when a vehicle the size of a WheelTrans bus stops on Queens Quay at Harbourfront Community Centre, it completely blocks the bicycle lane and encroaches into the only eastbound lane for motorised traffic. This creates a hazard for cyclists and other traffic traveling eastbound on Queens Quay West, east of Eireann Quay. Site observations over the past two years by Transportation Services' staff have revealed that motorists sometimes drive over the raised curb/sidewalk or straddle the sidewalk to avoid blocking cyclists or other motorised traffic but when doing this, they pose a hazard for pedestrians.

Proposal

As a means of resolving this matter, Facilities and Real Estate staff propose construction of a 3-metre wide lay-by within the public right-of-way on the south side of Queens Quay West, from a point about 56 metres east of Eireann Quay to a point 26 metres further east. Planters and other landscape features in front of the community centre will be removed or relocated to facilitate construction of the lay-by and maintain a suitable area along the south side of Queens Quay West where pedestrians may walk.

Transportation Services has reviewed the detailed design of this proposal and has no objections. The location of the proposed lay-by is generally as shown on the attached print of Drawing No. 421G-0106, dated July 2010. The lay-by would be sufficiently wide enough to enable a vehicle as large as a WheelTrans bus to stop in it, while picking-up or dropping off a passenger without blocking any portion of the adjacent bicycle lane. Contingent upon approval of this proposal by City Council, construction of the lay-by might begin as early as September 2010.

Conclusion

Construction of the lay-by outlined in this report will enable persons to be safely picked up or dropped off at the Harbourfront Community and daycare centre. The lay-by should be designated as a "No Standing" area to discourage parking and promote turnover. The lay-by will enhance safety for persons attending programs at the community centre/daycare and for cyclists, pedestrians, and motorists on Queens Quay West.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Peter Noehammer, P. Eng.
Director, Transportation Services

ATTACHMENTS

Drawing No. 421G-0106, dated July 2010

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