



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Pedestrian Refuge Island Review – Lawrence Avenue East and Susan Street

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Date: | August 12, 2011 |
| To: | Scarborough Community Council |
| From: | Director, Transportation Services, Scarborough District |
| Wards: | Ward 43 – Scarborough East |
| Reference Number: | P:\2011\Cluster B\TRA\Scarborough\sc1181 D11-4346896 Lawrence Susan PRI review |

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to discuss the feasibility of removing the Pedestrian Refuge Island (PRI) on Lawrence Avenue East at Susan Street.

A proposal by the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) to remove the westbound bus stop on the north side would render the current PRI unwarranted since most pedestrian demand would disappear. In addition, this location does not meet the current environmental warrant practice for a PRI due to the location of a seven-lane cross-section at this location.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services, Scarborough District, recommends that City Council:

1. Approve the removal of the Pedestrian Refuge Island on Lawrence Avenue East at Susan Street, subject to the westbound Toronto Transit Commission transit stop on the north side of this intersection being removed.
2. Pursuant to the City of Toronto Act 2006, authorize the appropriate City officials to prepare the necessary Road Alteration By-law.
3. Pass or amend the appropriate by-law(s) accordingly.

Financial Impact

The financial cost of removing the pedestrian refuge island would be approximately \$10,000.00. Once approved, the funding for this removal would be arranged through the Minor Transportation Improvements Program budget within Transportation Services.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Scarborough Community Council on May 25, 2010, adopted Item SC35.4 (report dated April 8, 2010 from the Acting Director, Transportation Services, Scarborough District) recommending that City Council approve the installation of traffic control signals at the intersection of Lawrence Avenue East and Susan Street, and that City Council pass or amend the appropriate by-law(s) accordingly.

City Council on June 8 and 9, 2010, referred Item SC35.4 to the General Manager, Transportation Services, with a request that he clarify the numbers in the report (April 8, 2010) from the Acting Director, Transportation Services, Scarborough District, and report back to Scarborough Community Council in 2011:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2010.SC35.4>

Scarborough Community Council on February 16, 2011, deferred Item SC4.20 (report dated January 26, 2011 from the Director, Transportation Services, Scarborough District) recommending that City Council approve the installation of traffic control signals at the intersection of Lawrence Avenue East and Susan Street, that City Council approve the removal of the pedestrian refuge island on Lawrence Avenue East located 10 metres west of Susan street, and that City Council pass or amend the appropriate by-law(s) accordingly.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2011.SC4.20>

COMMENTS

The following characteristics describe the intersection of Lawrence Avenue East and Susan Street:

- This three-way intersection is located to the west of Orton Park Road and Lawrence Avenue East and is presently controlled by stop signs on Susan Street.
- Lawrence Avenue East is a six-lane major arterial roadway with left-turn storage lanes and a raised concrete pedestrian refuge island to the west of Susan Street.
- Lawrence Avenue East has a speed limit of 60 km/h (that is receiving adequate compliance) and a daily traffic volume of approximately 34,200 vehicles per day.
- Susan Street is a two-lane local roadway with a speed limit of 40 km/h.
- Toronto Transit Commission bus stops for eastbound and westbound directions along Lawrence Avenue East are located on both sides of the Susan Street intersection.
- Traffic control signals are located approximately 266 metres east at Orton Park Road, and 188 metres west at Mossbank Drive.
- Sidewalks are located on both sides of Lawrence Avenue East and Susan Street.

Since the last report from this Division and Scarborough Community Council's deferral of same, the TTC has advised that it would be willing to remove the westbound transit stop on the north side of this intersection so that patrons would need to cross at the signalised intersection at Mossbank Drive (188 metres further west) to access a westbound transit stop at that location. Such a removal would eliminate most of the pedestrian crossings at this intersection.

As a result, the previously recorded volume of 115 pedestrians crossing in the vicinity of this intersection would drop dramatically to well below the 100 pedestrian threshold that the City uses as a guideline for warranting a PRI. In addition, the PRI already fails to meet the Division's current environmental guidelines for installing such islands, where the maximum number of lanes for an acceptable installation is five lanes. At this location, Lawrence Avenue East is seven lanes wide.

It is recommended that the Pedestrian Refuge Island at Lawrence Avenue East and Susan Street be removed, subject to the removal of the westbound TTC transit stop on the north side, which the TTC is agreeable to.

CONTACT

Marko A. Oinonen, B.A.Sc., P.Eng.
Manager, Traffic Operations, Scarborough District
Tel: 416-396-7148
Fax: 416-396-5641
E-Mail: moionone@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Peter J. Noehammer, P.Eng.
Director, Transportation Services, Scarborough District

MAO:ca

ATTACHMENTS

1. Appendix 1- Proposed Highway Alteration
2. Location Plan - Pedestrian Refuge Island – Lawrence Avenue East and Susan Street

Appendix 1 – Proposed Highway Alteration

| Ward | Street | At | To | Description of Highway Alteration | Rationale |
|-------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|--|----------------------------------|
| 43 | Lawrence Avenue East | 10 metres west of Susan Street | | Remove the Pedestrian Refuge Island | Minor Transportation Improvement |