

Southbound No Left Turn and No Entry Prohibitions: 550 Finch Avenue West

Date:	December 7, 2011
To:	North York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services, North York District
Wards:	Ward 10 – York Centre
Reference Number:	<i>ny12017</i>

SUMMARY

As the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates a transit service on Finch Avenue West, City Council approval of this report is required.

To approve the installation of Southbound No Left Turn prohibition for southbound traffic during a.m. and p.m. peak hours and northbound No Entry prohibitions at the outbound access of Northview Heights Secondary School located at 550 Finch Avenue West.

The installation of peak hour turn prohibition will avoid the potential conflict between the southbound/outbound traffic from the school driveway with the existing eastbound left turning movements associated with the intersection of Finch Avenue West and Bathurst Street. The installation of No Entry prohibitions will provide positive guidance to the motorists on Finch Avenue West that the most westerly driveway is designated for outbound movements only.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services Division, North York District recommends that City Council:

1. Approve the installation of "No Left Turn, 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., and 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday" prohibitions for the southbound traffic from 550 Finch Avenue West egress, 95 metres west of Bathurst Street, onto Finch Avenue West; and

2. Approve the installation of northbound "No Entry at Anytime" prohibitions to 550 Finch Avenue West egress, 95 metres west of Bathurst Street, for the traffic from Finch Avenue West.

Financial Impact

All costs associated with the turn and no entry prohibitions are included within the Transportation Services Division's 2012 Operating Budget estimates.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Traffic Planning & Right of Way Management has requested Traffic Operations to install southbound left turn prohibitions during a.m. and p.m. peak hours on the outbound driveway associated to the New Heights Community Health Centre on the site of the Northview Heights Secondary School located at 550 Finch Avenue West.

It should be noted that the Toronto District School Board has been granted approval for the construction of a medical office building (New Heights Community Health Centre) on the Northview Heights Secondary School Site. Although there are no proposed additions to the school the internal pick-up and drop-off circulation route will be modified and the parking will be reconfigured.

COMMENTS

Finch Avenue West, west of Bathurst Street is designated as a major arterial roadway with a posted speed limit of 60 km/h. This section of Finch Avenue West is comprised of a five lane cross section with the centre lane being designated for left turning movements. The driveway access and egress to the site is located approximately 95 metres west of the signalized intersection of Bathurst Street and Finch Avenue West.

Currently, Northview Heights Secondary School has three full movement driveways off Finch Avenue, one of which is located on the west side of the school providing access to a small staff parking lot. The two remaining driveways are located on the east side of the school to the main parking lot and drop-off/pick-up area.

Based upon the proposed plan, the two driveways on the east side of the school will be consolidated to a one-way loop with separated access and egress points located on Finch Avenue West approximately where the existing east driveway is located. The driveway on the west side of the school will be retained in its current location and will serve an enlarged parking lot reserved for school staff.

With respect to the proposed addition, Transportation Services is aware of existing traffic concerns within the surrounding road network. The queuing from the eastbound left-turn at the intersection of Bathurst Street and Finch Avenue West has been reported to extend beyond the east driveway of the school, resulting in blockage of the accesses on the north and south side of Finch Avenue West.

As part of the development application, Transportation Services requested that a Queue Block Study be conducted by the Hilditch Architects. The Queue Block Study concluded that the outbound left-turns were blocked approximately 40% and 62% of the time during the a.m. and p.m. peak hours respectively due to the heavy eastbound left turning movements that are occurring at the intersection of Finch Avenue West and Bathurst Street.

Given the above noted information, Transportation Services recommended the installation of southbound left turn prohibition during a.m. and p.m. peak hours and that the most westerly driveway, be designated for outbound movements only.

The implementation of the peak hour turn prohibitions will avoid the potential conflict between the southbound/outbound traffic from the school driveway with the existing eastbound left turning movements associated with the intersection of Finch Avenue West and Bathurst Street. The installation of no entry prohibitions will provide positive guidance to the motorists on Finch Avenue West that the most westerly driveway is designated for outbound movements only.

The Ward Councillor has been advised of the recommendation of this staff report.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Myles Currie
Director

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1: Map – Southbound Left-Turn and Northbound Entry Prohibition: 550 Finch Ave W
- Attachment 2: Map – Development Plan: 550 Finch Ave W