

Parking Amendments – St. Clair Avenue West

Date:	December 2, 2011
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District
Wards:	St. Paul's, Ward 22
Reference Number:	Ts2011218te.top.doc

SUMMARY

Transportation Services is requesting approval from City Council to rescind the parking machine regulations on the north side of St. Clair Avenue West, between Avenue Road and Oriole Road and in place, implement a "No Parking Anytime" regulation.

The intent of this proposal is to reduce congestion and enhance traffic operation on the westbound approach to Avenue Road. A total of five parking spaces will be lost.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council rescind the regulation authorizing the operation of parking machines from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday to Friday; from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday; and from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Sunday for a maximum period of 3 hours at a rate of \$2.00 per hour on the north side of St. Clair Avenue West, between Avenue Road and Oriole Road.
2. City Council rescind the "No Stopping", from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., except Saturdays, Sundays, and Public Holidays" regulation on the north side of St. Clair Avenue West, from a point 65 metres west of Deer Park Crescent to a point 30.5 metres east of Avenue Road.
3. City Council rescind the "No Parking Anytime" regulation on the north side of St. Clair Avenue West, from a point 60 metres east of Avenue Road to a point 30.5 metres east of Avenue Road.

4. City Council approve implementation of a "No Stopping", from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., except Saturdays, Sundays, and Public Holidays " regulation on the north side of St. Clair Avenue West, from a point 65 metres west of Deer Park Crescent to a point 62.5 metres east of Avenue Road.
5. City Council approve implementation of a "No Stopping Anytime" regulation on the north side of St. Clair Avenue West, from Avenue Road to a point 62.5 metres further east.
6. City Council approve implementation of a "No Parking Anytime" regulation on the north side of St. Clair Avenue West, from a point 62.5 metres east of Avenue Road to Oriole Road.

Financial Impact

Funds to undertake the necessary signage adjustments in the estimated amount of \$600.00 are contained in the Transportation Services Division 2012 Interim Operating Budget.

The Toronto Parking Authority advises that removal of the parking spaces as recommended above will result in approximately \$6,000.00 annual lost revenue generated by the current parking machine in this area.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Transportation Services has reviewed a request from Councillor Josh Matlow to rescind the existing parking machine regulations and in place thereof, prohibit parking on the north side of St. Clair Avenue West, between Avenue Road and Oriole Road. The intent is to improve the operational flow of westbound traffic by reducing queuing on the westbound approach of St. Clair Avenue West at Avenue Road.

COMMENTS

St. Clair Avenue West, in the vicinity of Avenue Road, is a major arterial roadway operating two-way on a pavement width of approximately 21.0 metres, comprised of two lanes in each direction for general traffic operation, as well as an exclusive TTC streetcar right-of-way. The speed limit is 50 km/h and this section of St. Clair Avenue West carries a two-way traffic volume of approximately 22,000 vehicles a day.

The by-lawed parking regulations on the north side of this section of St. Clair Avenue West are as follows:

- "No Stopping Anytime", from Avenue Road to a point 30.5 metres further east.
- "No Stopping, from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday".
- Parking machine regulations operate: from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday to Friday; from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday; and from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Sunday for a maximum period of 3 hours at a rate of \$2.00 per hour.

Our investigation of the parking area on the north side of St. Clair Avenue West, between Avenue Road and Oriole Road, has revealed that the presence of parked vehicles in this block sometimes impedes the flow of westbound traffic approaching Avenue Road. Although this is not always the case, we have determined that on numerous occasions when the westbound traffic volumes are higher, the left-turn demand often exceeds the capacity of the left-turn storage lane and traffic backs up into the through traffic lane. When this occurs, parking on the north side of the street creates a bottle-neck that prevents motorists from entering the westbound through and right-turn lanes. As a result of this, the westbound vehicle queues on St. Clair Avenue West sometimes back up to a point near Oriole Road. Although the majority of the vehicles backed-up were able to clear the intersection on the next green signal, the presence of the north side parking caused longer than necessary queues and contributed significantly to traffic congestion on the westbound approach to Avenue Road.

To improve the overall westbound traffic flow and allow motorists to move into the through lane and the lane used for right-turn movements onto Avenue Road at a point further east, we recommend prohibiting parking at all times where currently allowed on the north side of St. Clair Avenue west, between Avenue Road and Oriole Road. While the loss of five parking spaces on this section of St. Clair Avenue West might be a minor inconvenience for people visiting in the area the overall benefit to traffic operation outweighs the inconvenience.

This amended regulation will still allow motorists to stop momentarily while in the process of picking-up/dropping-off passengers and/or merchandise.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Andrew Koropeski, P.Eng.
Director, Transportation Services
Toronto and East York District

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

(1) Drawing No. 421G-0483, dated October 2011

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