



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

Highway Alteration and Lane Designation – Albion Road and Finch Avenue West

Date:	February 4, 2014
To:	Etobicoke York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services - Etobicoke York District
Wards:	Ward 1 – Etobicoke North
Reference Number:	p:\2014\Cluster B\TRA\EtobicokeYork\eycc140035-to

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to obtain authorization for roadway alterations related to amending the intersection of Albion Road and Finch Avenue West. Amendments to the northwest corner of the intersection, by removing the channelized island, will improve safety for pedestrians and will accommodate the installation of audible pedestrian signals.

In addition, the southbound curb lane on Finch Avenue West, north of Albion Road, will be designated and signed to allow for right turns only, buses excepted.

Since the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) provides service on Albion Road and on Finch Avenue West, City Council approval of this report is required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that City Council approve:

1. The alterations and modifications at the intersection of Albion Road and Finch Avenue West, by removing the island on the northwest corner and amending the radii on this corner by constructing a new curb and sidewalk as indicated in Appendix “A”, and generally shown on the attached sketch as Attachment 1.
2. Designating the westerly southbound lane on Finch Avenue West between Albion Road and a point 30.5 metres north for southbound right turns, buses excepted.

Financial Impact

The reconstruction of the intersection of Albion Road and Finch Avenue West can be accommodated within the Transportation Services 2014 Capital Budget and will be done as part of the resurfacing of Finch Avenue West.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The intersection of Albion Road and Finch Avenue West was identified as a candidate to improve the overall intersection operation for pedestrians as part of the rehabilitation of Finch Avenue West. As a small island exists on the northwest corner of the intersection, which separates the crossing area for pedestrians, this is not a candidate for audible signal installation under the current configuration.

These highway alterations proposed are shown on the attached map and described in Appendix "A".

COMMENTS

The design and geometry of the signalized intersection of Albion Road and Finch Avenue West is typical in that the four way intersection has 90 degree approaches. A small channelized island exists at this intersection, however, only on the northwest corner. With this island on this corner, pedestrians must leave the curb and stand on this small island to wait to cross at this intersection.

With the proposed intersection design, this channelized island is to be removed. By removing this island, we improve the pedestrian environment as pedestrians will now stand on the curb, as is done on all other corners of this intersection. In addition, as this will now become a more typical intersection with the removal of this island, it also means an audible signal could now be installed at this intersection.

The removal of this island will result in the elimination of the short acceleration lane for traffic coming from southbound on Finch Avenue West onto Albion Road. However, in reviewing the traffic volumes at this intersection, this movement can be accommodated without this acceleration lane and will have little impact on vehicle operation at this intersection. As such, a new curb and sidewalk will be installed on this corner to accommodate the removal of this island. The southbound curb lane will be designated for right turns only, however, since there is a far side bus stop, buses will be exempt from this regulation.

The authorization of the road alteration to the City of Toronto Act, 2006, will mitigate the City's legal liability as the road authority. Therefore, it is recommended that City Council authorize this road alteration.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Appendix "A"

Attachment 1 Map

Appendix "A"

February 4, 2014

Location Requiring a Highway Alteration

Ward	Street	At	To	Description of Highway Alteration	Rationale
1	Albion Road	Finch Avenue West		Reconstructing of the intersection radius on the northwest corner and removal of the channelized island, adjust the sidewalk location along with boulevard amendments.	To enhance the pedestrian environment, by providing more area for pedestrians to wait on the corner and accommodate a future audible pedestrian signal.