



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Left Turn Prohibition – Weston Road at Porter Avenue

Date:	February 5, 2014
To:	Etobicoke York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services - Etobicoke York District
Wards:	Ward 11 – York South-Weston
Reference Number:	p:\2014\Cluster B\TRA\EtobicokeYork\eycc140051-to

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to respond to a request to introduce a "No Left Turn" restriction for northbound traffic on Weston Road at Porter Avenue.

Porter Avenue connects Weston Road and Avon Avenue and also serves as an access to Archbishop Romero Catholic Secondary School. As such, this turn prohibition would have a significant impact on many residents in this area and we would look for the support of the majority of the community on this request.

Since the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) provides service on Weston Road, City Council approval of this report is required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that City Council:

1. Not approve the implementation of "No Left Turn" restriction northbound on Weston Road at Porter Avenue.

Financial Impact

The adoption of the above noted recommendation will not result in any financial impact. If however, Council decides to approve installing "No Left Turn" prohibition, the following financial impact will result:

Type of Funding	Source of Funds	Amount
Available within current budget	Transportation Services Operating Budget	\$500.00

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Transportation Services staff received a signed petition, through the office of the area Councillor, to review the feasibility of prohibiting northbound left turns on Weston Road at Porter Avenue. This petition was signed by ten households of Porter Avenue. A total of 22 houses use Porter Avenue to access their homes. This includes five houses on Weston Road whose garages are accessible from Porter Avenue. A map of the area is Attachment 1.

COMMENTS

The intersection of Weston Road and Porter Avenue has three approaches with a "Stop" sign control for eastbound motorists on Porter Avenue.

Weston Road is a 19 metre wide five-lane road. It operates two-way with a north-south alignment. The stretch of roadway from Rogers Road (to the south) to Humber Boulevard North (to the north) is classified in the City's Road Classification System as "Major Arterial" roadway. Sidewalks are located on both sides of the street. The legal speed limit on this stretch of the road is 50 km/h.

Porter Avenue is an 8.0 metre wide two-lane road classified in the City's Road Classification System as "Local" roadway. It operates two-way with an east-west alignment. Porter Avenue runs west of Weston Road and terminates at Avon Avenue. There are sidewalks on both sides of Porter Avenue. The posted speed limit is 40 km/h. Heavy trucks are prohibited at all times of the day. A left turn lane exists to allow left turns into Porter Avenue from Weston Road. This left turn lane has existed for many years at this location.

To assess traffic operations at the intersection, an eight-hour (7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., and 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.) count was conducted on January 16, 2014. Our analysis of the study data indicates that over the eight hours of the study, a total of 818 vehicles travelled on Porter Avenue. Twenty-nine (29)% or 239 of those were motorists who made a northbound left turn on Weston Road to proceed west on Porter Avenue.

In addition to our eight hour turning movement study, staff conducted a review of the Toronto Police Services collision records for the past three years for which we have complete data (January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2013). The results of this review indicate there has been one collision involving northbound and/or eastbound left turning vehicles at this intersection. The collision involved minor property damage.

Prior to the installation of any turn prohibition it is important to note the following:

- This turn prohibition is a regulatory sign that will have an equally adverse effect on travel routes for local residents, as there are no exceptions to the prohibition for residents.
- Any prohibition installed to eliminate traffic on a road will transfer this traffic to

other roads in the area (i.e. Avon Crescent).

- Traffic controls tend to set precedents. Residents perceive actions taken for one road as a warrant for similar actions on their road.
- Motorists will also use alternate adjacent intersections which will result in longer delays and a lower level of service at those intersections.
- This petition only represents 45% of the properties who have driveway access to Porter Avenue and significantly less of the residents who use Porter Avenue as the most convenient access to their homes.

Based on above, staff does not recommend the implementation of "No Left Turn" restriction for northbound traffic on Weston Road at Porter Avenue.

CONTACT

Geena Yadav, Traffic Operations - Etobicoke York District
Phone: 416-394-5426; Fax: 416-394-8942
Email: gyadav@toronto.ca
AFS 19275

SIGNATURE

Steven T. Kodama, P.Eng.
Director, Transportation Services, Etobicoke York District

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 Map