

Road Alterations – Front Street West

Date:	February 18, 2014
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District
Wards:	Toronto Centre-Rosedale, Ward 28
Reference Number:	Ts2014025te.top.doc

SUMMARY

Transportation Services is requesting City Council authority to alter Front Street West, between Bay Street and Yonge Street, by removing a portion of the median at two locations. One will provide access to the Brookfield Place driveway for eastbound traffic on Front Street West while the other will allow vehicles exiting the Brookfield Place driveway to make westbound-to-eastbound U-turns. This work will be completed in 2014. The proposed road alterations will have a minimal impact on traffic operations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends:

1. City Council approve the removal of two sections of the median on Front Street East, west of Yonge Street, generally as shown on Drawing No. 421G-1343, dated February 2014, attached to the February 18, 2014 report entitled "Road Alterations – Front Street West", from the Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District.
2. City Council prohibit southbound left turns at all times to Front Street West, from the driveway on the north side of Front Street West, located approximately 45 metres west of Yonge Street.
3. City Council prohibit eastbound-to-westbound U-turns at all times, on Front Street West, between Bay Street and Yonge Street.
4. City Council prohibit westbound-to-eastbound U-turns at all times, on Front Street West, at the break in the median located approximately 45 metres west of Yonge Street.

Financial Impact

All costs associated with the modification of the median on Front Street West, west of Yonge Street, will be the responsibility of the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) and Brookfield Properties Corporation.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

In early 2011, Brookfield Properties requested that Transportation Services consider creating a break in the median on Front Street West, just west of Yonge Street, in order to allow left-turns into the Brookfield Place driveway. At the time it was a right-in/right-out only access. They also requested a break further west to allow for westbound-to-eastbound U-turns.

Subsequently, Brookfield Properties retained a consultant to review the traffic impacts of the proposed median breaks. The review was completed in late 2011 and it was concluded that the proposal would have minimal impact on traffic operations.

Front Street West, east of Bay Street, was closed for several months in late 2012 in order to accommodate work on the Union Station Second Platform. For the duration of the closure motorists exiting the Brookfield Place driveway would proceed west towards Bay Street and complete a U-turn at a temporary break in the median to head east on Front Street West. However, in advance of this work, the TTC noted that larger trucks and fire trucks would not be able to complete the movement. As a result, the median at the Brookfield Place driveway was also modified to allow southbound left turns. These breaks in the median are still in place as a temporary measure.

In 2014, with the completion of the TTC project, the pavement and streetscape of Front Street West will need to be restored. The proposal is to make these breaks in the centre median part of the permanent configuration of Front Street and to do this work when the restoration is done.

COMMENTS

Front Street West, between Bay Street and Yonge Street, is a four-lane minor arterial roadway with a median island. The subject temporary breaks are located approximately 45 metres west of Yonge Street at the driveway to Brookfield Place (No. 181 Bay Street) and approximately 70 metres east of Bay Street. There is currently no TTC service on this section of Front Street West. However, the "172 – Cherry Street" bus route, which currently uses King Street, Church Street, and The Esplanade to proceed eastbound, will revert to using Front Street once construction on the Union Station Second Platform is complete.

The eastbound through volume on Front Street West, between Bay Street and Yonge Street, is approximately 1030 vehicles in the morning peak hour and 1075 in the afternoon peak hour. The westbound through/right volumes at the Brookfield Place driveway are approximately 315/170 in the morning peak hour and 135/50 in the afternoon peak hour. Currently, all movements are technically allowed at the temporary

break in the median at the Brookfield Place driveway, located approximately 45m west of Yonge Street.

Southbound left turns exiting Brookfield Place driveway would not be allowed due to concerns that these vehicles could block westbound traffic. The proposed break in the median on Front Street West, just west of Yonge Street, is intended to allow left turns to enter the Brookfield Place driveway, only. There are projected to be approximately 75 eastbound left turns, from Front Street West into the Brookfield Place driveway, in the morning peak hour and 30 left turns in the afternoon peak hour.

The proposed break in the median approximately 70 metres east of Bay Street is intended to allow motorists exiting the Brookfield Place driveway to proceed west towards Bay Street and complete a U-turn to head east on Front Street West. This indirectly provides motorists exiting the Brookfield Place driveway access to eastbound Front Street. It is projected that approximately 10 vehicles in the morning peak hour and 35 vehicles in the afternoon peak hour would execute the westbound-to-eastbound U-turn manoeuvre.

The eastbound left turns into the Brookfield Place should be possible without causing significant delays to other eastbound traffic on Front Street West. The projected U-turn volumes at the median break further west can be accommodated by the regular gaps in conflicting traffic caused by the traffic control signals at Bay Street and Front Street West with minimal impact on traffic flow on Front Street West.

Transportation Services staff has been working closely with TTC and Brookfield Properties to ensure that the streetscape design incorporates trees and is appropriate for this environment along Front Street West.

Councillor Pam McConnell has been advised about this proposal.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Jacqueline White P. Eng,
Director, Transportation Services
Toronto and East York District

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

(1) Drawing No. 421G-1343, dated February 2014

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