



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

Two-way Operation – George Street (Dundas Street East to Gerrard Street East)

Date:	July 7, 2014
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District
Wards:	Toronto Centre-Rosedale, Ward 27
Reference Number:	Ts2014127te.top

SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter for which Toronto and East York Community Council has delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision.

Transportation Services is requesting approval from Toronto and East York Community Council to implement a two-way operation on George Street, between Dundas Street East and Gerrard Street East, in an attempt to increase vehicle movement and discourage stopping related to undesirable activity in this area.

In accordance with the Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 925, Permit Parking, public notice was placed on the City's Website asking those people, who object to the proposal to remove the on-street permit parking spaces, to set their objections in writing to the City Clerk in order to be scheduled as deputations to Toronto and East York Community Council

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Rescind the current "No Parking Anytime" regulation on the west side of George Street, between Dundas Street East and Gerrard Street East.
2. Rescind the current "Two Hour" parking limit on the east side of George Street, between Dundas Street East and Gerrard Street East.
3. Rescind the current one-way southbound operation on George Street, between Dundas Street East and Gerrard Street East.

4. Rescind the current Pay-and-Display Parking regulation from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday to Saturday, and 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 east side of George Street, between Dundas Street East and Gerrard Street East.
5. Rescind the existing parking prohibition, except by permit, between 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., daily, on the east side of George Street, between Dundas Street East and Gerrard Street East.
6. Enact a "No Stopping Anytime" regulation on both sides of George Street, between Dundas Street East and Gerrard Street East.
7. Approve a southbound stop control on George Street at Dundas Street East.

Financial Impact

The cost of sign installation required to give effect to the recommendations is estimated to be about \$2,000.00, funds for which are available in Transportation Services 2014 Operating Budget.

BACKGROUND

Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, in consultation with local residents and representatives of the Garden District Residents Association, requested that Transportation Services staff implement a two-way traffic operation on this section of George Street to help curtail on-going drug and prostitution activity in this area.

COMMENTS

George Street, from Dundas Street East to Gerrard Street East, is classified as a local roadway that operates one-way southbound, with a pavement width of 7.3 metres. The speed limit on this section of George Street is 50 km/h, and there is no TTC service. This section of George Street carries approximately 800 vehicles a day. The following parking regulations are currently in effect:

West Side

- Parking is currently prohibited at all times

East Side

- Pay parking is allowed from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday to Saturday and from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Sunday for a maximum period of 3 hours.
- Permit parking operates from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., daily.

In order for the two-way operation to be possible, it is necessary to remove parking that is currently provided on the east side of George Street. Stopping must be prohibited at all times on both sides of the roadway in order to deter parking and provide safe unobstructed two-way traffic flow. Transportation Services determined that approximately 33 on-street parking/permit parking spaces would be eliminated as a result of the proposed two-way conversion of this section of George Street. Of the 33 permit parking spaces, only one permit has been issued. In addition, traffic volume projections for this roadway are expected to double (1,600 vehicles a day) with the implementation of the two-way proposal on this roadway.

Residents feel that the added traffic volume generated by the two-way conversion, along with the proposed parking changes, should help deter undesirable activity in the area by providing more "eyes on the street" and discourage parking related to drug and prostitution activity.

This proposal will create some inconvenience for area residents, trades and visitors on this section of George Street by forcing them to find parking elsewhere in the area. The current traffic volume for this roadway (800 vehicles a day) is quite low when compared to other local roadways in the City. The projected traffic volume for this section of George Street (1,600 vehicles a day) is more typical and should have a minimal impact to this roadway and the surrounding road network.

A Notice was placed on the City's Website on July 11, 2014 with an expiration date to raise objections of July 26, 2014. The City Clerk has confirmed that no written objections were received by the expiration date.

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-1424, dated May 2014

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