

Lay-by Construction – Bremner Boulevard

Date: October 6, 2016
To: Toronto and East York Community Council
From: Acting Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District
Wards: Ward 20, Trinity-Spadina

SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter that Community Council has delegated authority to make a final decision, provided that it is not amended so that it varies with City policy or by-laws.

Transportation Services is requesting approval for the construction of a lay-by on the south side of Bremner Boulevard, fronting No. 222 Bremner Boulevard (Metro Toronto Convention Centre, South Building).

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Acting Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District recommends that:

1. Toronto and East York Community Council approve the widening of Bremner Boulevard, from a width of about 15.7 metres to a width of about 18.2 metres by the construction of a lay-by on the south side of Bremner Boulevard, from a point 43.15 metres west of Lower Simcoe Street to a point 35.0 metres further west, generally as shown on the attached print of Drawing No. 421G- 2293, dated October 2016.
2. Toronto and East York Community Council authorize parking for a maximum period of 30 minutes to operate at all times on the south side of Bremner Boulevard, between a point 43.15 metres west of Lower Simcoe Street and a point 35 metres further west.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

All costs associated with the construction of the lay-by is the responsibility of the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. Funds to undertake the necessary signage adjustments in the estimated amount of \$500.00 will also be the responsibility of the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

DECISION HISTORY

This report addresses a new initiative.

COMMENTS

Bremner Boulevard, between Lower Simcoe Street and Rees Street, is a collector road which operates with two-way traffic. This roadway has a speed limit of 50 km/h and a pavement width of 15.7 metres. There is no TTC service provided on Bremner Boulevard. The main entrance to the south building of the Metro Toronto Convention Centre is located on the north side of Bremner Boulevard, just west of Lower Simcoe Street.

Stopping is prohibited at all times on the south side of Bremner Boulevard, between Lower Simcoe Street and Rees Street, except for a section east of Rees Street where a "Taxi Cab" stand is provided for approximately 4 vehicles, and a "Passenger Pick-up and Drop-off" area is also provided.

The Metro Toronto Convention Centre is in the process of beginning a major modernization of its' 20 year old south building. Most of the planned work is interior upgrades, however exterior improvements are also planned. Directly opposite the south buildings main entrance, on the south side of Bremner Boulevard, the Metro Toronto Convention Centre has a small building that houses elevators for their underground parking facility. Identified by Metro Toronto Convention Centre architects, this building also provides direct access to/from the exhibit halls underground, but requires modifications to house additional service elevators. In addition, a lay-by fronting this building is proposed to provide an area where vehicles can park short-term to load/unload without obstructing eastbound traffic flow on Bremner Boulevard. These proposed changes will address longstanding building deficiencies with their ability to efficiently move small exhibit materials (from personal vehicles) down to the exhibit halls below ground.

The proposed lay-by will be constructed on the south side of Bremner Boulevard, between a point 43.15 metres west of Lower Simcoe Street and a point 35 metres further west. The lay-by will provide an estimated four parking spaces and require a 2.5-metre widening of the roadway with this proposal. It is also important to note that there is no authority within the traffic by-laws of the City of Toronto that would allow parking spaces to be delineated by means of an amendment and regulatory signs on a public roadway exclusively for use by a specific agency, in this case the "Metro Toronto Convention Centre". Therefore, the lay-by outlined in this report could be used by anyone at any time, with no guarantee that space would be available for use by a person visiting this facility.

As part of the external enhancements proposed by the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, streetscape improvements will also be made to this area. The new space will have protective seating, bike racks, and the two existing flower beds will be relocated on either side of the new structure thereby maintaining the theme of the original streetscape design.

This proposal will not negatively impact traffic operations of Bremner Boulevard and will provide an area to load/unload without impacting traffic flow. Transportation Services have no objections to this request.

Councillor Joe Cressy has been advised of the recommendations of this staff report.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Dave Twaddle, C.E.T.
Acting Director, Transportation Services
Toronto and East York District

ATTACHMENTS

1. Drawing No. 421G-2293, dated October 2016

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