

Traffic Control Signals - Sheppard Avenue West

Date: November 8, 2019
To: North York Community Council
From: Acting Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services
Wards: Ward 18, Willowdale

SUMMARY

As the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates a transit service on Sheppard Avenue West, City Council approval of this report is required.

Transportation Services is requesting approval from City Council to install pedestrian activated traffic control signals on Sheppard Avenue West, approximately 30 metres east of Pewter Road.

The proposed traffic control signals will provide a safe and convenient crossing of Sheppard Avenue West for pedestrians, including TTC passengers but will add delays to Sheppard Avenue West traffic.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Acting Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the installation of traffic control signals on Sheppard Avenue West at a point approximately 30 metres east of Pewter Road.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated cost of installing traffic control signals on Sheppard Avenue West, approximately 30 metres east of Pewter Road is \$120,000.00. This installation would be considered in 2021, subject to the availability of funding and competing priorities.

DECISION HISTORY

This report addresses a new initiative.

COMMENTS

Transportation Services was requested by Councillor John Filion to review the feasibility of installing traffic control signals on Sheppard Avenue West, between Senlac Road and Beecroft Road. The requested traffic control signals are intended to address safety concerns for pedestrians, including TTC passengers, crossing Sheppard Avenue West.

Sheppard Avenue West is classified as a major arterial street that provides two lanes in each direction. It has a posted speed limit of 60 km/h and a daily two-way traffic volume of approximately 28,000 vehicles. There are sidewalks on both sides of the street. The section of Sheppard Avenue West, between Senlac Road and Beecroft Road is approximately 790 metres in length. Between these two signalized intersections, there is no pedestrian crossing protection provided on Sheppard Avenue West. Transit service on this section of Sheppard Avenue West is provided by the 84 Sheppard West and the 384 Sheppard West bus routes. The land use in the area is mainly residential with some commercial establishments.

A thorough review was conducted by Transportation Services' staff to find a suitable location for the installation of traffic control signals along the section of Sheppard Avenue West, between Senlac Road and Beecroft Road. Due to the multitude of driveways along Sheppard Avenue West, combined with offset intersections and TTC bus stops, the only location that could accommodate traffic control signals on this section of Sheppard Avenue West is approximately 30 metres east of Pewter Road. However, this location has a TTC bus stop on the south side of the street in the area where the pedestrian crosswalk lines would be required.

Transportation Services consulted with TTC staff to discuss the possibility of relocating the bus stop to the west of Pewter Road. Although the platform for the bus stop will be suboptimal, TTC has agreed to relocate the bus stop on the south side of Sheppard Avenue West from the east side of Pewter Road to the west side of Pewter Road. In conjunction with this change, TTC will consolidate all surrounding bus stops to this intersection to improve pedestrian safety by encouraging use of the pedestrian activated traffic control signals.

Traffic Control Signals

Transportation Services staff reviewed the intersection on Sheppard Avenue West at Pewter Road for the installation of traffic control signals. The studies were undertaken during the busiest eight-hour period of a typical weekday on November 18, 2018.

The results are summarized as follows:

Table 1: Traffic Control Signal Warrants and Compliance (November 28, 2018)

Criteria	Sheppard Avenue West and Pewter Road
Minimum Vehicular Volume	15 percent
Delay to Cross Traffic	22 percent
Collision Hazard	0 percent
TCS Warranted	No

To satisfy the technical warrants for traffic control signals, one of either the Minimum Vehicular Volume or Delay to Cross Traffic warrants must be 100 percent satisfied, or both must be satisfied to the extent of 80 percent. Based on the above results, the installation of traffic control signals is not numerically warranted at the intersection of Sheppard Avenue West and Pewter Road.

The “Collision Hazard” warrant is based on the number of collisions potentially preventable by the installation of traffic control signals and must be 100 percent satisfied. Collision statistics provided by the Toronto Police Service for the three-year period ending October 31, 2019 disclosed one collision at the intersection of Sheppard Avenue West and Pewter Road that was potentially preventable by the installation of traffic control signals. No collisions at this intersection involved pedestrians.

Notwithstanding, in view of the long spacing between pedestrian crossing protection on Sheppard Avenue West, Transportation Services further considered the installation of traffic signals on Sheppard Avenue West, approximately 30 metres east of Pewter Road for the following reasons:

- there are transit stops in both directions on Sheppard Avenue West at the intersection that attract pedestrians to cross the street;
- there are pedestrian generators in the immediate area, including residential community and health centres, that will attract vulnerable pedestrian to cross Sheppard Avenue West; and
- the four lane cross-section on Sheppard Avenue West, as well as the speed and volume of traffic using this street, may discourage pedestrians from crossing without the assistance of pedestrian crossing protection.

In conjunction with the installation of the pedestrian activated traffic control signals, TTC is also requesting, through Transportation Services, a rebuild of the driveway apron at the eastbound transit stop.

The Ward Councillor has been advised of the recommendation of this report.

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Map - Traffic Control Signals - Sheppard Avenue West

