

## **Designation of Reserved Lane and Speed Limits on Reserved Lane for Finch West LRT Segregated Right of Way**

**Date:** June 18, 2021

**To:** Infrastructure and Environment Committee

**From:** General Manager, Transportation Services

**Wards:** Ward 1 – Etobicoke North, Ward 6 – York Centre and Ward 7 – Humber River-Black Creek

### **SUMMARY**

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The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for amendments to the City of Toronto Municipal Code for the implementation of a separate speed limit on the Finch West LRT corridor between Highway 27 and Keele Street. The requested amendments are in line with similar approval previously granted for the Eglinton Crosstown LRT corridor.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The General Manager, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council establish and authorize a reserved lane with a speed limit of 60 km/hr for the Finch West LRT segregated right-of-way on Finch Avenue West between Highway 27 and Keele Street.
2. City Council amend City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 950, Traffic and Parking, generally as outlined in Attachment 1 to the report (June 3, 2021) from the General Manager, Transportation Services.
3. City Council authorize the City Solicitor to introduce the necessary bills to give effect to City Council's decision and City Council authorize the City Solicitor to make any necessary clarifications, refinements, minor modifications, technical amendments, or by-law amendments as may be identified by the City Solicitor or General Manager, Transportation Services, in order to give effect to Parts 1 and 2 above and the reasonable operation of a reserved lane for the Finch West LRT with an associated different speed limit than the other general purpose traffic lanes.

## FINANCIAL IMPACT

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There is no financial impact to the City of Toronto associated with the recommendations in this report. Metrolinx and its contractors are responsible for all costs required to implement the recommendations of the report.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

## DECISION HISTORY

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At its meeting of April 7, 2021, City Council unanimously approved the designated speed limit areas on Public Lanes and Local Roads, and Designated Reserved Lane and Speed Limit on Reserved Lane for Eglinton Avenue Light Rail Transit Segregated Right of Way.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.IE20.15>

At its meeting of July 16, 17 and 18, 2019, City Council unanimously approved the Vision Zero 2.0 – Road Safety Plan Update, as amended. Within this report, staff committed to the implementation of the Speed Management Strategy, comprised of several actions. One of these actions was to lower speed limit from 60 km/h to 50 km/h on Finch Avenue West from Albion Road to Yonge Street.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.IE6.8>

## COMMENTS

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The Finch West Light Rail Transit (LRT) is currently under construction and runs on a segregated, dedicated track along the surface of Finch Avenue West between Highway 27 and Keele Street. In July 2019, City Council approved a reduction in the posted speed limit from 60 km/h to 50 km/h on Finch Avenue West, between Albion Road and Yonge Street, which lies within the Finch West LRT corridor.

Contractual obligations for the operation of Finch West LRT, including end to end run time, require the LRT to be able to reach speeds of up to 60 km/h. Given the segregated nature of the LRT driven by professional drivers on fixed rails with superior stopping ability over regular vehicles with pneumatic tires, it has been determined that an operating speed of 60 km/h for the LRT vehicles is appropriate in the segregated environment and is still in keeping with a Vision Zero oriented approach to road safety.

Accordingly it is proposed that the segregated portion of the LRT guideway on Finch Avenue West between Highway 27 and Keele Street be designated as a reserved lane for Metrolinx LRT Vehicles, Clearly Marked Transit Authority Vehicles and Clearly Marked Project Co. Vehicles, and that a speed limit be set for this reserved lane at 60 km/h.

Amendments are required to City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 950, Traffic and Parking, to implement the reserved lane designation and separate speed limit for the Finch West LRT corridor, generally as outlined in Attachment 1 to the report (June 3, 2021) from the General Manager, Transportation Services.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Barbara Gray  
General Manager, Transportation Services Division

**Attachment 1 - Municipal Code Amendments – Finch West LRT Reserved Lane Speed Limit**

**Amendments to Municipal Code Chapter 950, Traffic and Parking**

1. Add the following into Schedule XLVI in § 950-1345:

(In Column 1 Highway)	(In Column 2 Between)	(In Column 3 Lanes)	(In Column 4 Time and/or Days)	(In Column 5 Speed (km/hr))	(In Column 6 Designated Class of Vehicle)
Finch Avenue West	Highway 27 and Keele Street	Eastbound and Westbound lanes in the middle of the road	Anytime	60	Metrolinx LRT Vehicles, Clearly Marked Transit Authority Vehicles, and Clearly Marked Project Co. Vehicles