

Through Restrictions (Bicycles Excepted Westbound Only): Yonge Street and Avondale Avenue/Florence Avenue

Date: December 11, 2020
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 Yonge Street, City Council approval of this report is required.

Transportation Services is requesting approval to allow bicycles to proceed during the times that the westbound through restriction is in place at the intersection of Yonge Street and Avondale Avenue/Florence Avenue.

The implementation of bicycles excepted at the existing westbound through restriction on Yonge Street and Avondale Avenue/Florence Avenue will permit westbound through movement for bicycles.

During the course of the investigation, it was noted that there is a discrepancy between posted signs and the existing by-law. Recommendation 3 will correct this inconsistency.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council exempt bicycles from the existing right-turn only lane designation on Avondale Avenue, between Yonge Street and a point 30.5 metres east.
2. City Council prohibit westbound through movements at all times from Avondale Avenue, east of Yonge Street, to Florence Avenue, west of Yonge Street, bicycles excepted.

3. City Council prohibit eastbound through movements at all times from Florence Avenue, west of Yonge Street, to Avondale Avenue, east of Yonge Street.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The signage costs associated with the proposed amendments are approximately \$1000.00. Funding is available within the Transportation Services Interim 2021 Operating Budget.

DECISION HISTORY

This report addresses a new initiative.

COMMENTS

Transportation Services was requested by the Ward Councillor, on behalf of area residents, to amend the existing westbound through prohibitions at the intersection of Yonge Street and Avondale Avenue/Florence Avenue in order to exempt bicycles from the restriction.

Existing Conditions

Avondale Avenue is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is a four-lane, east/west, collector roadway, located on the east side of Yonge Street
- It operates two-way traffic on a pavement width of approximately 13.2 metres
- The regulatory speed limit is 40 km/h
- Heavy trucks are prohibited at all times
- There is no TTC service provided
- There are sidewalks located on both sides of the street
- Avondale Avenue at Yonge Street is equipped with traffic control signals
- The westbound right lane is designated as a "right turn only" lane thus prohibiting westbound through movement of vehicles at the intersection of Yonge Street and Avondale Avenue/Florence Avenue

Florence Avenue is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is a two-lane, east/west, collector roadway, located on the west side of Yonge Street
- It operates two-way traffic on a pavement width of approximately 10 metres
- The regulatory speed limit is 40 km/h
- Heavy trucks are prohibited at all times
- There is no TTC service provided
- There are sidewalks located on both sides of the street
- Florence Avenue at Yonge Street is equipped with traffic control signals

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- Signs are posted to prohibit eastbound through movement at the intersection of Yonge Street and Avondale Avenue/Florence Avenue

Avondale Avenue (to the east) and Florence Avenue (to the west) intersect with Yonge Street to form a four legged intersection. Currently, the westbound northerly right lane on Avondale Avenue is designated as a "one-way right turn only" lane and the two southerly lanes are designated as "one-way left turn only" lanes, thus prohibiting westbound vehicular through movement. Similarly, signs are posted and pavement marked to prohibit eastbound vehicular through movement from Florence Avenue to Avondale Avenue. However, there is no bylaw to support the prohibition. Also, records for the prohibition of the through movements are unavailable at this time. A map of the area is included in Attachment 1.

Since bicycles by definition are classified as vehicles under the Highway Traffic Act, the restricted through movements also apply to the cyclists riding their bicycles through the intersection during the prohibited times.

The proposed recommendations of allowing bicycles to conduct westbound through movement will not impact on the adjacent community nor traffic operation.

The Ward Councillor has been advised of the recommendation(s) of this staff report.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Roger Browne, M.A.Sc., P.Eng
Acting Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Map - Through Restrictions (Bicycles Excepted - Westbound Only)
- Yonge Street and Avondale Avenue/Florence Avenue.

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 Yonge Street and Avondale Avenue/Florence Avenue

