

Traffic Control Signals - Private Driveway at 2750 Morningside Avenue

Date: December 15, 2020

To: Scarborough Community Council

From: Acting Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 23, Scarborough North

SUMMARY

As the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates bus service on Morningside Avenue, City Council approval of this report is required.

Transportation Services is requesting approval from City Council to install traffic control signals at the intersection of Morningside Avenue and the private driveway at 2750 Morningside Avenue, approximately 250 metres north of Neilson Road. Traffic control signals are justified at this site based on the anticipated vehicle traffic entering and exiting the development via the site driveway.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council authorize the installation of traffic control signals at the intersection of Morningside Avenue and the private driveway at 2750 Morningside Avenue, approximately 250 metres north of Neilson Road.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated cost for installing traffic control signals at the intersection of Morningside Avenue and the private driveway at 2750 Morningside Avenue, approximately 250 metres north of Neilson Road is approximately \$250,000. All costs associated with the installation of the new traffic control signals will be borne by the property owner, in accordance with the subdivision agreement.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of September 15, 2020 Scarborough Community Council adopted this item SC 17.11 that had its origin in a Letter from Councillor Cynthia Lai, Ward 23, Scarborough North. The Community Council decision can be found at: <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.SC17.11>.

COMMENTS

The industrially-zoned site at the northeast corner of Morningside Avenue and Neilson Road has been acquired by a developer and leaser of industrial and warehouse space. It is understood that the intent of the development is the construction of a 335,000 square foot logistics centre which will be leased up to 4 different companies. As of the September 15, 2020 meeting of the Scarborough Community Council the Site Plan Application was close to approval.

Morningside Avenue, north of Neilson Road is classified as a minor arterial road with two lanes in each direction separated by a physical grass and treed median. There are sidewalks on both sides of Morningside Avenue in this vicinity of this development. Neilson Road, southwest of Morningside Avenue is a collector class road with sidewalks on the south side of the road. Nightstar Road, the east side of Neilson Road, is residential collector road with a 40 km/h speed limit. Morningside Avenue is posted with a 60 km/h speed limit. Neilson Road is posted with a 50 km/h speed limit to the immediate south-west of this site is a major CP railway line.

In the vicinity of this site, is a mix of residential, commercial and light industrial developments. To the south and east of 2750 Morningside Avenue are single family units and townhouse dwellings. A public school is located proximately 500 metres to the south-west of this development site. Two the north-west and south-east are two banquet-convention centres within 500 metres of 2750 Morningside Avenue. Along Neilson Road and south-west of Morningside Avenue and as well as to the north-west are several light industrial facilities.

The Toronto Transit Commission operates the 133 Neilson bus route between the Scarborough Centre Station and the Morningside heights area. The Toronto Transit Commission currently operates the 116 Morningside bus route between Kennedy Station and the area of Morningside Avenue and Old Finch Road Avenue. There are bus stops on Morningside Avenue by Neilson Road in the vicinity of Neilson Road.

There are also existing traffic control signals at Morningside Avenue and McNicoll Avenue approximately 320 metres to the north-west, as well at Morningside Avenue and Neilson Road/Nightstar Road approximately 250 metres to the south-east of 2750 Morningside Avenue.

Analysis

As part of the traffic assessment for this site 2750 Morningside Avenue, BA Consulting Group Limited completed a traffic signal warrant analysis using the projected traffic volumes during the peak eight hours on from October 2018 and the following results were obtained:

Traffic Control Signal Justification Study

Traffic Control Signal Warrant	Compliance Level
Minimum Vehicular Volume	32%
Delay To Cross Traffic	56%
Collision Hazard	0%

In order to meet the warrant for Traffic Control Signals, one of the “Minimum Vehicular Volume” or “Delay to Cross Traffic” or “Collision Hazard” warrants must be 100% satisfied, or both the “Minimum Vehicular Volume” and “Delay to Cross Traffic” warrants must be at least 80% satisfied. As this intersection does not yet exist, there is no collision history. This data shows that traffic control signals are not warranted at this time at this site.

Although the numerical requirements of the traffic control signal warrant are not met, the consulting group, cited that the proposed site driveway is a viable signalization location due to the following:

- As the sole point of access to the site, it is critical that the proposed site driveway allow for the movements to be made in all directions in all to enable the development of the site and enable trips to and from the destinations across the GTA;
- The proposed traffic signal location exceeds the City's minimum preferred signal spacing requirements from the adjacent traffic signal to the north at Morningside Avenue and McNicoll Avenue/Oasis Boulevard and Morningside Avenue and Neilson Road to the south;
- With the provision of a traffic signal, the 2018 Report concludes that all movements will operate at acceptable levels of service and within capacity;
- A review of the OTM Book 12 traffic signal warrant indicates that the warrant is not met, but also recognizes that the warrant is not the only criteria in justifying a traffic signal;

- In an unsignalized arrangement, difficulties would be expected with making turns into and out of the site due to less than optimal sightlines to the south on Morningside Avenue, four travel lanes and a wide median on Morningside Avenue, high volumes of traffic along Morningside Avenue, high volumes of traffic in and out of the site throughout the day including the morning and afternoon peak hours, high volumes of trucks, and the combination of these factors could potentially negatively impact the safety performance of the intersection;
- The provision of a traffic signal mitigates the collision risk of these factors and also provides an additional crossing of Morningside Avenue for both pedestrians and cyclists; and
- Signalization of the site driveway intersection allows for the safe & efficient operation of all movements.

Based on the aforementioned and by applying engineering judgement, Transportation Services is recommending the installation of traffic control signals at the intersection of Morningside Avenue and the private driveway at 2750 Morningside Avenue, approximately 250 metres north of Neilson Road. The Toronto Transit Commission has been consulted with this recommendation.

The Ward Councillors have been advised of the recommendation 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: Drawing No. D20-10400522, dated November 2020
2750 Morningside Avenue-Proposed Traffic Control Signal

