



**STAFF REPORT
INFORMATION ONLY**

Supplementary Report on the Permanent Closure of a Portion of Carroll Street Extending between Thompson Street and Davies Avenue and a Portion of Thompson Street for Incorporation into Joel Weeks Park

Date:	June 4, 2010
To:	City Council
From:	General Manager, Transportation Services
Wards:	Toronto-Danforth – Ward 30
Reference Number:	Cc10105te.top

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide additional information to City Council on the status of all easements, in consultation with the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation, which were referred to in Transportation Services’ report dated May 6, 2010, entitled, “Permanent Closure of a Portion of Carroll Street Extending between Thompson Street and Davies Avenue and a Portion of Thompson Street for Incorporation into Joel Weeks Park”.

Financial Impact

No costs will be incurred by the City from the adoption of this report.

DECISION HISTORY

Toronto and East York Community Council at its meeting of May 25, 2010, decided to submit consideration of Item TE34.45 to City Council without recommendation and requested the General Manager, Transportation Services, in consultation with the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, to report directly to City Council on the status of all easements referred to in the May 6, 2010 report from the Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

At the May 25, 2010, meeting of Toronto and East York Community Council, Councillor Paula Fletcher requested that staff prepare a supplementary report to City Council to provide further details on the status of easements for utilities and below grade infrastructure, and the feasibility of incorporating the closed portions of the highway lands into the park.

COMMENTS

Below grade and within the portion of Carroll Street and the portion of Thompson Street to be closed and incorporated into Joel Weeks Park, there currently exists a 600mm storm sewer, a 300mm combined sewer and a 150mm watermain. In addition, the following public utilities must remain in place and will require easement protection:

- (i) Bell Canada – maintenance chamber and four duct structure on the east side of Carroll Street;
- (ii) Enbridge Gas – NPS 4ST IP Gas main; and
- (iii) Toronto Hydro – underground cable.

The above-noted municipal services and public utilities are located within the proposed highway closure and have legal entitlement to be there under various public utility regulations. The usual practice by the City when a highway or lane is closed for the jurisdictional transfer to Parks, Forestry and Recreation, has been to provide easements to any affected public utilities. If easements are not granted upon the closure of Carroll Street and Thompson Street, Parks, Forestry and Recreation would be required to pay the entire cost to remove and/or relocate the services of Bell Canada, Enbridge Gas and Toronto Hydro, which is not recommended.

The granting of easements has no financial cost to Parks, Forestry and Recreation and allows more funds to be directed to the development of future park lands.

The preliminary design of the park was prepared with the understanding that utility easements would be required. In order to minimize the impact of the easements on the design of the park, it is proposed that the asphalt roadway will be retained and used as a park feature, with the street trees planted abutting the easement corridors.

In accordance with the City's Real Estate Disposal By-law No. 814-2007, easement interests over 21 years in portions of Carroll Street and Thompson Street were declared surplus on May 12, 2010 (DAF2010-082), conditional upon City Council permanently closing the subject highway lands.

In summary, and further to Toronto and East York Committee's request for information related to the subject easements, it has been confirmed that easements for the protection of the existing services of Bell Canada, Enbridge Gas and Toronto Hydro will need to be retained and the design of the park should not be significantly impacted by the retention of these easements.

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SIGNATURE

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