



**STAFF REPORT  
ACTION REQUIRED**

**Weston Road – Heavy Trucks**

<b>Date:</b>	June 2, 2011
<b>To:</b>	Etobicoke York Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Acting Director, Transportation Services - Etobicoke York District
<b>Wards:</b>	Ward 7 – York West
<b>Reference Number:</b>	p:\2011\Cluster B\TRA\EtobicokeYork\eycc110099-to

**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval to prohibit heavy trucks between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on Weston Road between Albion Road and Finch Avenue West.

As the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates transit service on Weston Road; City Council approval of this report is required.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Transportation Services recommends that City Council approve:**

1. Enacting a “No Heavy Trucks, 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.” regulation on Weston Road between Albion Road and Finch Avenue West.

**Financial Impact**

Type of Funding	Source of Funds	Amount
Available within current budget	Transportation Services Operating Budget	\$800.00

**ISSUE BACKGROUND**

This report is in response to a meeting between Transportation Services staff, the area Councillor and a resident of Weston Road who expressed concerns with heavy trucks using Weston Road, specifically in the residential area between Finch Avenue West and Albion Road. The request, addressed in this report, was to prohibit heavy trucks at all times.

## COMMENTS

Weston Road is classified as a 'major arterial' road. The portion of the road between Albion Road and Finch Avenue West has a five lane cross-section. All of Weston Road is built to urban standards (curb and gutter) with a continuous sidewalk on both sides of the road. This sidewalk, although continuous, is directly abutting the curb while other locations are separated by a grass boulevard. The speed limit is 50 km/h with a Community Safety Zone north of Albion Road and south of Sheppard Avenue. The Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates bus service on this road. Heavy trucks are currently allowed on Weston Road. A map of the area is Attachment 1. This map shows the road widths and right of way widths for Weston Road as well as other parallel north/south 'major arterial' roads.

To quantify concerns, traffic volumes were collected on Weston Road as well as other north/south arterial roads. The results indicated that a total of 34,584 northbound and southbound vehicles were recorded in a 24-hour period in the area of Starview Lane (between Sheppard Avenue West and Albion Road). The volume was close to being an even split between northbound and southbound traffic, with marginally heavier volumes for both cars and heavy trucks in the southbound direction.

The following table illustrates the comparison of traffic volumes, heavy truck percentages recorded in the past and what was recorded currently on Weston Road as well as other north/south arterial roads. Also noted was the current volume of buses.

Location	Historical			Current			
	Year	24-hour vol	Heavy Trucks (%)	Year	Trucks (%)	Tractor Trailers (%)	Buses Recorded (2 hours)
Weston Road between (btw.) Albion Rd. and Finch Ave. W.	2011	34,584	6.6*	2011	4.2**	2.45**	31
Jane Street btw. Wilson Ave. and Steeles Ave. W.	2008	31,753	3.3*	2011	2.3**	0.37**	63
Islington Avenue btw. Rexdale Bl. and Albion Rd.	2006	25,592	2.4*	2011	3.6**	0.72**	24
Kipling Avenue btw. Rexdale Bl. and Steeles Ave. W.	2008	22,266	2.0*	2011	2.6**	0.6**	38
Keele Street south of Sheppard Ave.	2009	45,336	6.2*	NA	NA	NA	NA

\*based on 8-hour turning movement count

\*\*based on 2-hour (off-peak) volume observations

Weston Road between Albion Road and Finch Avenue West is comprised of single family homes, schools and commercial buildings. The merchandise/goods for these commercial buildings (retail stores, gas stations, etc.) are delivered by heavy trucks. Very similar operating and environmental conditions exist on Jane Street, Islington Avenue and Kipling Avenue; the adjacent arterial roads.

When considering prohibiting heavy trucks from travelling on an arterial road, we have to be sensitive of the potential impact that this will have on the nearby parallel roads. We realize that if you prohibit heavy trucks from using one of the streets, they will be shifted to another street. Ideally, all heavy trucks would be shifted to Highway 400 but we must consider that they may instead choose Islington Avenue or Jane Street, the parallel major arterial roads to arrive at their delivery destination.

In the past, we have received requests from residents of Royal York Road, Islington Avenue, St. Phillips Avenue and Kipling Avenue to also prohibit heavy trucks from using these streets at all times, however, for consistency we have not recommended that heavy trucks be prohibited from travelling on any of these roads during the day.

The arterial roads play an important role in the transport of goods. Prohibiting heavy trucks on one arterial road can increase delivery times, emissions and the number of heavy trucks on alternate residential routes. While we do not support prohibiting heavy trucks at all times on Weston Road, a 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 am (overnight) regulation can be considered for Weston Road between Albion Road and Finch Avenue West, as similar regulations are already in place for Kipling Avenue and Islington Avenue; the parallel major arterial roads to the west.

It is important to note that heavy trucks are exempt from "No Heavy Trucks" regulations if they are using these roads to make deliveries to properties that cannot be reached except by using the prohibited road. In addition, TTC vehicles are exempt from heavy truck regulations.

## **CONTACT**

Domenic Di Flavio, Supervisor, Transportation Services - Etobicoke York District  
Tel: (416) 394-8098 Fax: (416) 394-8942  
E-mail: [ddiflav@toronto.ca](mailto:ddiflav@toronto.ca)  
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## **SIGNATURE**

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Steven T. Kodama, P.Eng.  
Acting Director, Transportation Services - Etobicoke York District

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1:           Map