



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

U-Turn Prohibition Study – Lawrence Avenue East, West of Warden Avenue

Date:	May 3, 2011
To:	Scarborough Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services, Scarborough District
Wards:	Ward 37 – Scarborough Centre
Reference Number:	P:\2011\Cluster B\TRA\Scarborough\sc1162 D11-4224561, D10-4062426 Lawrence U-Turn Prohibition

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval for the installation of a U-Turn Prohibition and associated signage on Lawrence Avenue East from Warden Avenue to Lilian Drive. Traffic studies reveal that a U-Turn Prohibition is justified. In addition, a request for a median extension was reviewed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services, Scarborough District, recommends that:

1. City Council approve the installation of a U-Turn Prohibition on Lawrence Avenue East from Warden Avenue to Lilian Drive, as identified in Appendix 1 of this report.
2. City Council not approve a median extension of approximately 4 metres to the west of the current configuration and the associated Road Alteration By-law.
3. City Council pass or amend the appropriate by-law(s) accordingly.

Financial Impact

The financial cost of installing the appropriate signage is approximately \$1,000.00. Funding for the signs is available in the Transportation Services 2011 Operating Budget, within Cost Centre TP0397. Should the median extension be approved the approximate cost would be \$3,500.00; however, such funding is not available in the Transportation Services Capital Budget.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Further to a request from Councillor Michael Thompson, Transportation Services staff reviewed the feasibility of installing a U-Turn Prohibition on Lawrence Avenue East, west of Warden Avenue in the vicinity of a Tim Hortons driveway at 2044 Lawrence Avenue East. In addition, Councillor Thompson requested staff to review the feasibility of extending the median by approximately 4 metres westward. The median extension is not recommended as this action may result in civil litigation directed towards the City of Toronto from abutting property owners for impacting on adjacent access.

COMMENTS

The following characteristics describe the area and land uses on Lawrence Avenue East, west of Warden Avenue:

- Lawrence Avenue East is an east-west major arterial road with a 60 km/h speed limit and a daily traffic volume of approximately 40,000 vehicles per day, (vpd).
- The land uses on Lawrence Avenue East in this area are predominantly commercial with a Church/Apartment building located on the opposite side of Lawrence Avenue East.
- A right-in and right-out access driveway for 2044 Lawrence Avenue East is located approximately 30 metres west of Warden Avenue.
- A centre median on Lawrence Avenue extends from Warden Avenue westward for approximately 45 metres, just west of the Tim Hortons driveway (2044 Lawrence Avenue East).
- A “One Way” sign is posted on the centre median advising exiting traffic at the subject driveway to proceed west on Lawrence Avenue East; however, patrons of the Tim Horton are attempting to gain easterly egress from this driveway. They have been frequently observed making a right-turn followed by a U-Turn around the end of the median, posing a potential traffic hazard.
- Patrons of the Tim Hortons also are attempting to enter the driveway from the west, and have been frequently observed making the left-turn into the driveway around the centre median.

U-Turn Observation Study

Transportation Services staff conducted a U-Turn Observation Study in the vicinity of 2044 Lawrence Avenue East. Motorists were observed exiting right out of the driveway, and then making a U-Turn around the centre island. In addition, motorists were also entering 2044 Lawrence Avenue East from the west around the centre median.

The estimated westbound volume, on this major arterial road is in excess of 20,000 vehicles per day (VPD).

Vehicle volumes were recorded entering and exiting 2044 Lawrence Avenue East. During the peak usage hours of a typical weekday (Thursday, October 21, and Friday October 22, 2010), the following results were obtained:

Time Period	Total Right –Turning Vehicles out of Tim Hortons Driveway, #2044 Lawrence Avenue East	Number of Right-Turns from Driveway Performing U-Turn	Number of Vehicles Entering Tim Hortons Driveway From the West
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	144	15	19
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	44	8	18
3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.	49	3	7
3 Hour Total	237	26	44

As outlined in the above table, drivers exiting and entering the subject driveway were observed making potentially unsafe manoeuvres by making a U-Turn as well as eastbound movements around the centre median.

Collision History

A review of the Toronto Police Service collision records for the five-year period ending December 31, 2009 revealed the following history:

Five-Year Collision Information	Number of Reported Collisions					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
Collisions Involving U-Turns at Median	0	0	0	0	1	1

The current median was extended past the coffee shop driveway through the original development process. Any future extension would not likely improve the situation and could impact an adjacent access to the west.

The resultant No U-Turn Prohibition and associated signage is expected to improve safety for all road users by minimizing vehicular conflicts.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

1. Appendix 1 – By-law Amendment (enact)
2. Location Plan (Proposed No U-turns on Lawrence Avenue E., Warden Avenue to Lilian Drive)

Appendix 1

“Prohibited Turns”
Regulation to be Enacted

(In Column 1) Intersection or Portion of Highway	(In Column 2) Direction	(In Column 3) Turns Prohibited	(In Column 4) Times or Days
Lawrence Avenue East from Warden Avenue to Lilian Drive	Westbound	U-Turn	Anytime