



**STAFF REPORT  
ACTION REQUIRED**

**Left-Turn Prohibition – Queen Street East and Knox Avenue**

<b>Date:</b>	May 25, 2011
<b>To:</b>	Toronto and East York Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Acting Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District
<b>Wards:</b>	Beaches-East York, Ward 32
<b>Reference Number:</b>	Ts2011132te.top.doc

**SUMMARY**

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Transportation Services is requesting approval from City Council to prohibit westbound left turns from Queen Street East to Knox Avenue, daily from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.. The purpose of this turn prohibition is to reduce non-resident traffic on Knox Avenue.

The proposed turn prohibition would likely divert most non-resident traffic off Knox Avenue during the prohibited times. Displaced traffic could be accommodated at the intersection of Queen Street East and Leslie Street without a significant increase in delay. However, some motorists may choose to detour to local roadways including Connaught Avenue, Woodward Avenue and Woodfield Road.

Knox Avenue residents and business operators could access their properties during the times of the turn prohibition by executing an eastbound right turn at the intersection. Westbound motorists on Queen Street East wishing to access Knox Avenue could execute a u-turn just west of Knox Avenue or circle back using roads to the west.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Transportation Services recommends that:**

1. City Council prohibit westbound left turns, bicycles excepted, from Queen Street East to Knox Avenue, daily from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m..

## Financial Impact

The estimated cost of sign fabrication and installation is \$200.00. These funds are contained in the Transportation Services 2011 Operating Budget.

## BACKGROUND

At the request of Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon, on behalf of local residents, Transportation Services reviewed the feasibility of prohibiting westbound left turns from Queen Street East to Knox Avenue, daily from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. This prohibition is intended to reduce non-resident traffic on Knox Avenue.

## COMMENTS

Knox Avenue is a 7.3 metre wide local roadway that runs one-way southbound from Queen Street East, just east of Leslie Street. There are traffic calming speed humps on Knox Avenue and a 30 km/h speed limit. Heavy trucks are prohibited on Knox Avenue and there is a bike lane on the east side of the road. There is no TTC service on Knox Avenue.

The following table shows the westbound left-turn traffic volume at the intersection of Queen Street East and Knox Avenue during the busiest eight hours of a typical weekday. Although traffic data was not collected for the weekend, it would likely be somewhat less than the weekday volumes.

Time Period	Westbound Left-turns	Heavy Trucks	Buses
7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	123 vehicles	4	1
Off Peak Hour Average	25 vehicles	2	0
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	56 vehicles	2	0
Eight-hour Total	278 vehicles	14	1

A review of the Toronto Police Service collision records for the three year period ending December 31, 2010 revealed that five collisions were reported at the intersection of Queen Street East and Knox Avenue. One of these collisions involved a westbound left-turning vehicle. This collision occurred during the afternoon peak period and the motorist was charged with failing to signal their turn. No one was injured in the collision.

The left-turn volumes shown in the above table indicate that non-residents are using Knox Avenue. Prohibiting westbound left turns during the morning and afternoon peak periods, daily, would likely divert this traffic to adjacent roadways during these periods. The intersection of Queen Street East and Leslie Street could accommodate this traffic without a significant increase in delay. However, some motorists may choose to detour to local roadways including Connaught Avenue, Woodward Avenue and Woodfield Road. Bicycles would be exempted from the prohibition because of the bike lane on Knox Avenue.

Knox Avenue residents and business operators could access their properties during the times of the turn prohibition by executing an eastbound right turn at the intersection.

Westbound motorists on Queen Street East wishing to access Knox Avenue could execute a u-turn just west of Knox Avenue or circle back using roads to the west.

**CONTACT**

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**SIGNATURE**

Angie Antoniou, Acting Director  
Transportation Services  
Toronto and East York District

**LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

(1) Drawing No. 421G-0357, dated May 2011

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