



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Proposed Traffic Island – Spadina Road at Thelma Avenue

Date:	September 14, 2011
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District
Wards:	St. Paul's, Ward 22
Report Number:	Ts2011189te.top.doc

SUMMARY

Transportation Services is requesting approval from City Council to install a modular traffic island on the east side of Spadina Road, immediately south of Thelma Avenue.

The installation of a modular traffic island at this location is intended to serve as a physical deterrent to motorists parking illegally on the east side of Spadina Road, right up to the corner of the intersection at Thelma Avenue where they obstruct sight lines between motorists turning to/from Thelma Avenue and pedestrians crossing at the intersection.

Installation of a modular traffic island at this location will not result in the loss of any legal on-street parking spaces on Spadina Road but will physically ensure that vehicles cannot park in this area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council approve the narrowing of Spadina Road, from a width of 14.5 metres to a width of 12.5 metres by the installation of a modular traffic island, on the east side of Spadina Road, from a point 3.2 metres south of Thelma Avenue to a point 4.3 metres further south, generally as shown on the attached print of Drawing No. 421G-0442, dated September, 2011, attached to the report dated September 14, 2011 and entitled, "Proposed Traffic Island – Spadina Road at Thelma Avenue", from the Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District.

Financial Impact

The estimated cost of installing a modular traffic island on Spadina Road at Thelma Avenue is \$1,500.00. Funds are contained in the Transportation Services Division 2011 Operating Budget.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Councillor Josh Matlow has requested Transportation Services to report on installing a modular traffic island on the east side of Spadina Road, immediately south of Thelma Avenue, to prevent ongoing instances of illegal parking near the corner, which impacts corner sight lines between pedestrians and turning motorists at this intersection within the historic Spadina Village.

COMMENTS

Spadina Road, in the vicinity of Thelma Avenue, is a two-lane, minor arterial roadway with a daily two-way traffic volume of approximately 17,000 vehicles and a speed limit of 40 km/h. Spadina Road operates on a pavement width of 14.5 metres south of Thelma Avenue and operates on a pavement width of 8.5 metres north of Thelma Avenue. Thelma Avenue intersects the east side of Spadina Road in a T-type intersection and has a westbound "Stop" sign at Spadina Road. Thelma Avenue is a local roadway that operates two-way on a pavement width of 7.4 metres from Spadina Road to its easterly end. The TTC operates the "Forest Hill – 33" bus route on Spadina Road. The suggested installation of a traffic island will have no impact on TTC service.

Parking on the east side of Spadina Road, south of Thelma Avenue, is controlled by Pay and Display Parking Machines and is permitted for a maximum period of three hours from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday to Saturday, and from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Sunday. Outside of the above-noted time periods, parking is allowed at no charge for a maximum period of three hours. A "No Parking Anytime" regulation is clearly posted on the east side of Spadina Road from Thelma Avenue to a point about 14 metres south.

Since the Scotiabank building on the southeast corner of the intersection provides an ATM kiosk, the no parking zone directly in front of the bank has become a convenient location for motorists to stop for a few minutes to access the ATM machine. Local residents have expressed concern about the reduced visibility between oncoming northbound motorists on Spadina Road, who are approaching and/or undertaking right-turns onto Thelma Avenue, and pedestrians either crossing Thelma Avenue along the east side of Spadina Road or waiting to safely cross Spadina Road at the south side of the intersection.

To resolve this issue, staff is recommending the installation of a modular traffic island on the east side of Spadina Avenue about 3.2 metres south of Thelma Avenue.

The installation of the modular traffic island is feasible and will not negatively impact on the flow of traffic. Subject to the installation of the modular island, it would then be practical to reduce the length of the corner parking prohibition at this location from 14.0 metres to 9.0 metres. No by-law amendment is required to do this and this would provide one additional legal parking space in this area to help accommodate the high demand for parking in the Spadina Village retail area.

Staff has met on-site with Councillor Matlow to review and discuss this proposal with him.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Andrew Koropeski, P.Eng.
Director, Transportation Services
Toronto and East York District

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

(1) Drawing No. 421G-0442, dated September, 2011

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