



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

Road Alterations – River Street between Queen Street East and King Street East

Date:	October 14, 2011
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District
Wards:	Toronto Centre-Rosedale, Ward 28
Reference Number:	Ts2011211te.top

SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter for which the Community Council has delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision.

Transportation Services is seeking authority to alter River Street, between Queen Street East and King Street East. The proposed road alterations include construction of curb and sidewalk along the east side, a minor realignment of River Street to intersect King Street East at right angles, removal of median islands at both King Street and Queen Street, and modifications to the southwest corner of the intersection of River Street and Queen Street East. River Street, between Queen Street East and King Street East will consist of a single through lane and a bicycle lane in each direction, exclusive northbound left-turn lane at Queen Street East and exclusive southbound left-turn and right-turn lanes at King Street East. Traffic control signals will be installed at River Street and King Street East.

The proposed road alterations will be completed by the Ontario Infrastructure and Lands Corporation upon the closure of the Link Road between River Street and Bayview Avenue and opening of an alternate route for traffic via the realigned Bayview Avenue, and the new roads proposed to be named Lower River Street and Lawren Harris Square. This work is part of the revitalization of the West Don Lands, and is necessary to permit the completion of the Flood Protection Landform, and therefore completion of the infrastructure necessary to support development of the West Don Lands, the new Don River Park, and the 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games Athletes' Village.

RECOMMENDATION

Transportation Services recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. approve the alteration of River Street, from King Street East to Queen Street East, to allow for the construction of curb and sidewalk on the east side of River Street, reconfiguration of the intersection of River Street and King Street to allow for the installation of traffic control signals, and modifications to the intersection of River Street and Queen Street East generally as shown in Drawing No. 421G-0467, dated October 2011 and attached to the report from the Director of Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District dated October 14, 2011.

Financial Impact

The recommendations in this report are necessary to facilitate the timely development of the 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games Athletes' Village in the West Don Lands, and will not result in a direct financial impact on the City.

The Village will be converted to residential units after the Games. The construction of the Village accelerates development of the West Don Lands by approximately five years.

The modifications to River Street will be constructed by Ontario Infrastructure and Lands Corporation. All costs associated with the road reconstruction, modifications, and introduction of the traffic regulations will be funded through the Ontario Infrastructure and Lands Corporation process.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer have reviewed this report and agree with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

City Council, on June 27, 28 and 29, 2006 adopted Clause No. 3 of Report No. 4 of the Planning and Transportation Committee, entitled "Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Initiative Addendum to the West Don Lands Class Environmental Assessment Master Plan: River Street Extension and Bayview-River Unnamed Road Connection". By so doing City Council authorized the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation (now Waterfront Toronto) to file the Addendum to the West Don Lands Class Environmental Assessment Master Plan: River Street Extension and Unnamed Road Connection in the public record in accordance with the amending procedure documented in the approved West Don Lands Class EA Master Plan. As well, Council authorized the installation of traffic control signals at the intersection of River Street and King Street East and at the southerly intersection of River Street and Bayview Avenue, coincident with the construction of the extension of River Street. The Preferred Alternative for the River Street Extension and the Bayview-River Connection included the following main features:

- Extension of River Street southerly from King Street East to connect with Eastern Avenue and Bayview Avenue, forming a square around a future local park.

- The realignment of River Street between Queen Street East and King Street East such that River Street intersects King Street East at a right angle.
- The closure of the Bayview-River Connection between River Street and Old Brewery Lane.
- The provision of traffic control signals at the intersection of River Street with King Street East and with Bayview Avenue.

Also, City Council, on May 11 and 12, 2010 authorized the permanent closure of a portion of River Street and a portion of the un-named Link Road, as Public Highways, upon construction, conveyance to the City and dedication of the new Bayview Avenue extension, subject to compliance with the requirements of City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 162. (TE33.40)

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The next stage of construction for the Flood Protection Landform within the West Don Lands requires that the un-named Road Connection (or Link Road) from Bayview Avenue to River Street be closed west of Old Brewery Lane. A condition of approval for this closure was that an alternate route would be provided between Bayview Avenue and King Street East.

An alternate route will be provided by the opening of the extension of River Street south of King Street (proposed to be named Lower River Street) to the north leg of the square (proposed to be named Lawren Harris Square) to the realigned Bayview Avenue. These new roads are scheduled to be dedicated as public rights-of-way and opened at the same time that the closure of the link road takes place. These roads will provide an adequate alternate route for motorists travelling between Bayview Avenue and the downtown core via King Street East. These new roads will also provide construction access for development within the West Don Lands and for construction of the 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games Athletes' Village in the West Don Lands.

With the closure of the link road from Bayview Avenue to River Street, the improvements envisioned in the aforementioned EA addendum report can be made to River Street between Queen Street East and King Street East. Prior to construction, it is necessary for Toronto and East York Community Council to approve the proposed road alterations on River Street.

COMMENTS

Existing conditions

River Street, between King Street East and Queen Street East, operates two-way with a speed limit of 50 km/h. Traffic control signals are provided at the intersection of Queen Street East and River Street. River Street currently ends, forming a T-intersection at King Street East. A stop sign is provided for southbound traffic at King Street East. The link road from Bayview Avenue intersects with the east side of River Street between King Street East and Queen Street East. There are medians separating northbound and

southbound traffic on River Street at King Street East and at Queen Street East. This section of River Street also has bike lanes on both sides of the road and stopping is prohibited at all times. Sidewalk is provided on the west side of River Street only. The Toronto Transit Commission does not operate transit service on River Street.

Road Alterations

The proposed configuration and realignment of River Street is shown on the attached Drawing No. 421G-0467, dated October 2011. The link road from Bayview Avenue will be closed and sidewalk will be provided along the east side of River Street between King Street East and Queen Street East. All of the medians will be removed from the roadway, and traffic control signals will be installed at the intersection of River Street and King Street East. River Street has been extended to the south (Lower River Street) forming a regular four-leg intersection. On River Street, between Queen Street East and King Street East, there will be one through lane and one bicycle lane provided in each direction. There will be an exclusive northbound left-turn lane provided at Queen Street East and southbound left-turn and right-turn lanes provided at King Street East.

The proposed improvements to River Street will accommodate both traffic that currently uses Bayview Avenue as a route to and from the downtown core via King Street East or Queen Street East, and future traffic generated from new development within the West Don Lands. The pedestrian environment will improve by the installation of sidewalks on both sides of the roadway, elimination of the channelizations at King Street East and provision of traffic control signals and crosswalks at King Street East. The bicycle lanes will connect with the existing bicycle lanes on River Street to the north, and will eventually continue south on Lower River Street into the West Don Lands.

Transportation Services will submit further reports recommending changes to the traffic and parking regulations on the new streets within the West Don Lands as they are nearer completion.

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-0467, dated October 2011

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