



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Installation of Traffic Control Signals – Gerrard Street East/St. Matthews Road/Blackburn Street

Date:	January 19, 2012
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District
Wards:	Toronto-Danforth – Ward 30
Reference Number:	Ts2012042te.top.docx

SUMMARY

Transportation Services is seeking authority from City Council to install traffic control signals at the intersection of Gerrard Street East/St. Matthews Road/ Blackburn Street to replace the existing pedestrian crossover (PXO). Transportation Services is also seeking approval to prohibit north and south bound traffic movements through the intersection.

The installation of traffic control signals at this location will satisfy conditions of site plan approval for the Bridgepoint Hospital redevelopment while providing a safe environment for both vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

The Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates a transit service on Gerrard Street East.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council approve the installation of traffic control signals at the intersection of Gerrard Street East/St. Matthews Road/Blackburn Street.
2. City Council approve the removal of the existing pedestrian crossover (PXO) at the intersection of Gerrard Street East/St. Matthews Road/Blackburn Street.
3. City Council prohibit southbound through traffic movements from St. Matthews Road to Blackburn Street and northbound through traffic movements from Blackburn Street to St. Matthews Road at Gerrard Street East.

4. City Council prohibit parking on both sides of Blackburn Street from Gerrard Street East to a point 20 metres south.
5. City Council amend the existing one-hour maximum parking limit on both sides of Blackburn Street between Gerrard Street East and Mount Stephen Street to operate between a point 20 metres south of Gerrard Street East and Mount Stephen Street.

Financial Impact

All costs associated with the installation of the traffic control signals at the intersection of Gerrard Street East/St. Matthews Road/Blackburn Street and the removal of the existing PXO are to be borne by the developer.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Bridgepoint Hospital/Don Jail lands currently under redevelopment at the north-west quadrant of the Broadview Avenue /Gerrard Street East intersection are subject to a Site Plan Agreement that requires the developer, among other things, to install traffic control signals at the Gerrard Street East/St Matthews Road/Blackburn Street intersection and the Broadview Avenue/Victor Avenue intersection. A new road network is planned within the quadrant to service a new hospital building, park, and future development of the remaining land parcels.

The developer is ready to proceed with the installation of traffic control signals at the Gerrard Street East/St Matthews Road/Blackburn Street intersection and Transportation Services is submitting a report to City Council seeking the necessary approvals.

The installation of traffic control signals at the Broadview Avenue/Victor Avenue intersection will be the subject of a future report to City Council.

COMMENTS

The intersection of Gerrard Street East and St. Matthews Road/Blackburn Street is located east of the Don Valley, approximately 220 metres west of the traffic control signals at Broadview Avenue. Gerrard Street East is an east/west four-lane minor arterial road with bicycle lanes (at the subject intersection). St. Matthews Road and Blackburn Street are both north/south local roads that intersect Gerrard Street East to form a four-leg near-right offset intersection (offset approximately 9 metres at centreline). St. Matthews Road runs north from Gerrard Street East and Blackburn Street runs south from Gerrard Street East. A pedestrian crossover exists on the east side of the intersection. The TTC operates streetcar service on Gerrard Street East.

The proposed traffic control signals will replace the existing PXO at the subject intersection and provide a safer environment for all road users. The signals will accommodate future traffic volumes at the intersection, projected to be generated by the new hospital building and new road network under full build-out. The changes in the road network are shown on the attached Drawing No. 421G-0544 dated January 2012.

Typically, parking is prohibited at all times within 30.5 metres of signalized intersections.

Currently stopping is prohibited on Gerrard Street East and parking is prohibited on St. Matthews Road in the vicinity of the intersection and consequently, no parking spaces will be lost on these streets as a result of the signal installation. The implementation of a 30.5 metre parking prohibition on Blackburn Street would result in the loss of approximately five parking spaces. Given however that Blackburn Street is a local road with relatively low traffic volume, Transportation Services is recommending that the statutory 30.5 metre parking prohibition be reduced in length to 20 metres on both sides of Blackburn Street. The reduced parking prohibition would not significantly impact traffic operations and would result in the loss of only two parking spaces.

As a result of the off-set nature of the intersection, northbound and southbound movements through the intersection are to be prohibited to address potential vehicular conflicts. The prohibitions will also respond to neighbourhood traffic infiltration issues raised by resident groups during the approvals process for the project.

The TTC has been advised of the proposed installation of traffic control signals at this intersection. Transit signal priority currently operates on Gerrard Street East and the transit priority feature will be implemented with the signal operation at this intersection to enhance streetcar operation through the intersection.

The Ward Councillor is aware of the proposal to remove the existing PXO and install traffic control signals at the intersection.

CONTACT

Brian Holditch, Transportation Technologist
Traffic Operations, Toronto and East York District
Telephone: 416-338-5428; Fax: 416-392-1920
e-mail: bholditc@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

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

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

(1) Drawing No. 421G-0544, January 2012

P:\2012\Cluster B\TRA\Toronto and East York District\TOP\ts2012042te.top.docx – cag