



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Traffic and Parking Amendments – Bond Street, Gould Street, Victoria Street and Willcocks Street

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| Date: | January 20, 2012 |
| To: | Toronto and East York Community Council |
| From: | Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District |
| Wards: | Toronto Centre-Rosedale, Ward 27 Trinity-Spadina Ward 20 |
| Reference Number: | Ts2012050te.top.doc |

SUMMARY

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

Transportation Services staff is seeking to have various parking and traffic amendments permanently approved as part of the "Pedestrian Pilot Zones" in the areas bound by Dundas Street East, Church Street, Gerrard Street East and Yonge Street (Ryerson University); and on Willcocks Street between Huron Street and St George Street (University of Toronto).

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Approve the amendments to traffic and parking regulations outlined in revised Appendix A, Appendix B, and revised Appendix C, attached to the report dated January 20, 2012 from the Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District.
2. Approve the narrowing of Gould Street from Church Street to a point 35.3 metres west, generally as shown on revised Drawing No. 421G-0556, dated January 2012, attached to the report from the Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District, dated January 20, 2012.

Financial Impact

The recommendations in this report have no financial impact.

DECISION HISTORY

On August 17, 2010, Toronto and East York Community Council adopted Item TE36.111, entitled "Pedestrian Zone Pilot Projects – Gould Street, Victoria Street and Willcocks Street – Community Council," which granted authority to implement Pedestrian Zone Pilot Projects for a temporary year-long pilot project at Ryerson University and at the University of Toronto, and to report back on the effectiveness of the pilot projects by the fourth quarter of 2011.

On September 12, 2011, Toronto and East York Community Council adopted Item TE9.66, entitled "Pedestrian Zones – Gould Street/Victoria Street and Willcocks Street", which extended the temporary closure to vehicular traffic on these streets for an additional six month period until March 31, 2012, and directed Transportation Services staff to report back on the proposed permanent closure prior to the expiry of the six-month extension period.

On January 10, 2012 Toronto and East York Community Council recommended that City Council adopt Item TE12.1 entitled "Permanent Closure to Vehicular Traffic of a Portion of Willcocks Street between St George Street and Huron Street and Portions of Gould Street and Victoria Street" which seeks that portions of the highways be permanently closed to vehicular traffic in these areas. This item will be considered by City Council on February 6, 2012.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

To implement the pedestrian zones at Ryerson University and the University of Toronto, a number of traffic and on-street parking amendments were approved by Toronto and East York Community Council in September/2011 on Bond Street, Gerrard Street East, Gould Street, O'Keefe Lane, Victoria Street, and Willcocks Street as outlined in Appendix A, Appendix B and Appendix C.

This report seeks approval from Toronto and East York Community Council to permanently adopt these traffic and on-street parking amendments in order to facilitate a safe and efficient traffic flow on these streets. A roadway narrowing on Gould Street at Church Street is also required to help emphasize the one-way operation on this street.

COMMENTS

The existing traffic and parking regulations for the pedestrian zone projects were approved by Toronto and East York Community Council in September/2011 and outlined in Appendix A, Appendix B and Appendix C. These traffic and parking changes will continue to be in place for the permanent closure of portions of Gould Street, Victoria Street, and Willcocks Street with the exception of access for emergency vehicles (refer to Drawings 421G-0556 and 421G-0560). There is no TTC service in the areas bounded by Dundas Street East, Church Street, Gerrard Street East and Yonge Street (Ryerson University); and on Willcocks Street between Huron Street and St. George Street (University of Toronto).

It was determined that additional parking modifications were needed on Gould and Bond Streets to help improve parking and traffic flow on these streets. The following provides details on the items recommended:

- The "1 hour parking between 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m." regulation on the north side of Gould Street between Victoria Street and Church Street will be rescinded, as this section was pedestrianized.
- A "No Stopping Anytime" regulation will be in effect on the north side of Gould Street between Church Street and a point 35.3 metres further west. This is to ensure that no vehicles are parked within the roadway narrowing.
- A "No Stopping Anytime" regulation will be in effect opposite the current pay and display parking on Bond Street (Dundas Street East and Gould Street) to deter parking and maintain unobstructed two-way traffic flow on this street.
- A Pick-up/Drop-off Area for the Ryerson Early Learning Centre is currently designated on the north side of Gould Street between a point 35.3 metres west of Church Street and a point 42 metres further west. The area will be extended to Gould Street to provide motorists additional parking opportunity.

The pilot projects revealed that the pedestrian zones have resulted in minimal impacts to traffic operations within their respective areas. However, staff will continue to work with all stakeholders to address traffic concerns that may arise in the future as a result of the permanent road closures.

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SIGNATURE

Andrew Koropeski, P.Eng.
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Toronto and East York District

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Drawing No. 421G-0556, dated January 2012
- (2) Drawing No. 421G-0560, dated January 2012
- (3) Appendix A – Parking Machines Regulations to be Continued
- (4) Appendix B – Traffic and Parking Regulations to be Continued
- (5) Appendix C – Amendments to Traffic and Parking Regulations

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