

Traffic infiltration- Gerrard Street East (south branch)

Date:	May 16, 2012
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Acting Director, Toronto and East York District
Wards:	Toronto-Danforth, Ward 30
Reference Number:	Ts2012109te.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.

As a result of a road alteration that took place in 2002, there is no longer vehicular access between the south branch of Gerrard Street East and the main branch of Gerrard Street East, east of Carlaw Avenue. The two unconnected branches have the same street name (Gerrard Street East) and some eastbound drivers are inadvertently entering the truncated south branch of Gerrard Street East instead of the main branch.

Transportation Services is recommending that the City Surveyor review the feasibility of changing the street name of the south branch of Gerrard Street East. Implementing a heavy truck prohibition on the south branch of Gerrard Street East would also reduce non-local traffic infiltration.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Request that the City Surveyor review the feasibility of changing the street name of the south branch of Gerrard Street East, between Carlaw Avenue and Boston Avenue.
2. Enact a heavy truck prohibition at all times on the south branch of Gerrard Street East, between Carlaw Avenue and Boston Avenue.

Financial Impact

Funding for the installation of a "No heavy truck" signs in the estimated amount of \$200.00 is available within Transportation Services 2012 Operating Budget.

DECISION HISTORY

Toronto and East York Community Council at its meeting of March 20, 2012, requested Transportation Services to undertake a review of the portion of Gerrard Street East (south branch), between Carlaw Avenue and Boston Avenue, and make a recommendation for a solution (Item TE14.57).

City Council at its meeting held on June 18, 19, and 20, 2002, adopted Clause 37 of Report No. 8 of the Toronto and East York Community Council to alter the southerly branch of Gerrard Street East, between Boston Avenue and Gerrard Street East, by means of landscaping.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Councillor Paula Fletcher has brought forward a concern about non-local traffic infiltration on to the south branch of Gerrard Street East from Carlaw Avenue.

COMMENTS

Gerrard Street East, within Ward 30, is an east/west four-lane minor arterial road that extends between the Don Valley and Coxwell Avenue. East of Carlaw Avenue and approximately 50 metres south of Gerrard Street East, there is a branch of Gerrard Street East that operates two-way between Carlaw Avenue and Boston Avenue. This south branch of Gerrard Street East is classified as a collector road and at one time connected with the main branch of Gerrard Street East, approximately 140 metres east of Carlaw Avenue, to form a modified "Y" type intersection.

In 2002, a small section of the south branch of Gerrard Street East at its junction with the main branch was closed to vehicular traffic and landscaped. As a consequence, there is no longer vehicle access between the truncated south branch and the main branch. Boston Avenue, a north/south two-way local road, remains the only connecting link at the east end of the south branch of Gerrard Street East.

"No through traffic" and "Local traffic only" signs are posted at the entrance to the south branch at Carlaw Avenue, along with an information sign indicating the municipal address numbers on the south branch of Gerrard Street East. An information sign indicating that the main branch of Gerrard Street East is north at the traffic signals is also posted on Carlaw Avenue at the south branch. The existing signage was reviewed in March 2012 and additional directional and advisory signs were installed.

Northbound motorists on Carlaw Avenue wanting to travel eastward on the main branch of Gerrard Street East have on occasion been inadvertently turning onto the truncated south branch of Gerrard Street East. Drivers of passenger vehicles and small trucks can make a U-turn at the east end, however larger trucks must travel south on Boston

Avenue then west back to Carlaw Avenue to access the main branch of Gerrard Street East.

The fact that two unconnected portions of the street have the same name is a contributing factor to driver confusion. Ultimately, renaming the south branch of Gerrard Street East would help clarify the situation and it is recommended that the City Surveyor be requested to review the feasibility of this course of action. The residents of the south branch of Gerrard Street East should also be consulted on any street name change.

Implementing and signing a heavy truck prohibition on the south branch of Gerrard Street East would help deter large trucks from inadvertently entering the street from Carlaw Avenue. Heavy trucks needing to make local deliveries or pick-ups would be exempt from the prohibition.

The south branch of Gerrard Street East is classified as a collector road under the City's Road Classification System. Given that the street is no longer a connecting link between Carlaw Avenue and the main branch of Gerrard Street East, both minor arterial roads, its operating characteristics are more or less similar to those of a local road. Transportation Services will re-examine the current classification of the south branch of Gerrard Street East to ensure it reflects the functional operation of the road.

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SIGNATURE

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LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

(1) Drawing No. 421G-0692, dated May 2012

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