



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Traffic Control Signals: Bayview Avenue and the Finch Corridor Trail

Date:	July 19, 2013
To:	North York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Division, North York District
Wards:	Wards 24 - Willowdale
Reference Number:	<i>ny13103</i>

SUMMARY

Since the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates a transit service on Bayview Avenue, City Council approval of this report is required. TTC staff has been consulted on the proposed signal installation and have not objected to the proposal.

To obtain approval for the installation of a mid-block traffic control signal on Bayview Avenue at a point approximately 100 metres north of Ruddington Drive at the Finch Corridor Trail in order to facilitate safe crossings for pedestrians and cyclists.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that City Council:

1. Approve the installation of a traffic control signal on Bayview Avenue at a point approximately 100 metres north of Ruddington Drive.

Financial Impact

All costs associated with the installation of the traffic control signal on Bayview Avenue at the Finch Corridor Trail will be included in the Transportation Services Cycling Infrastructure 2013 approved Capital Account CTP813-05.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Transportation Services, North York District was requested by the Cycling Infrastructure and Programs Unit to review the feasibility of installing a mid-block traffic control signal on Bayview Avenue at a point approximately 100 metres north of Ruddington Drive in conjunction with the construction of a section of the Finch Corridor Trail from Willowdale Avenue to Pineway Avenue.

The Finch Corridor Trail is a proposed new trail connection identified as a short term priority in the 2012 Bikeway Trails Implementation Plan, approved by City Council on June 6, 2012, (PW 15.2). This section of the Finch Corridor trail to be constructed in 2013/2014 is approximately three (3) kilometres in length from Willowdale Avenue to Pineway Boulevard and will connect with the existing ten (10) kilometre Finch Corridor Trail that runs from Hendon Avenue to York Gate Avenue. When fully completed, the Finch Corridor Trail will run approximately thirty (30) kilometres across the north of the city.

The purpose of the proposed traffic control signal installation is to facilitate safe and efficient crossing operations for cyclists and pedestrians crossing Bayview Avenue.

COMMENTS

The contract, Contract No. 13NY-10RD to construct the trail has been awarded and will be constructed in three phases commencing in July 2013. The portion of the trail between Willowdale Avenue and Pineway Boulevard would include the installation of the mid-block traffic control signals on Bayview Avenue north of Ruddington Drive.

Based on the projected walking and cycling activity along the Finch Corridor Trail, this crossing location is expected to satisfy the warrant requirements for a pedestrian crossover. However, this location does not satisfy the environmental criteria for a pedestrian crossover. The three most critical environmental criteria are speed, road width, and traffic volume. Specifically, if the operating speeds are 60 km/h or greater, the road is more than four lanes wide (including centre turn lane) or the traffic volume is 35,000 vehicles per day or greater, the operational safety of a pedestrian crossover is compromised. The City's current practice is to recommend the installation of a traffic control signal when the pedestrian crossover warrant is satisfied but the environmental criteria do not support the safe operation of a pedestrian crossover. Traffic control signals provide a more positive type of control with clearer direction to drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

It is anticipated that the volume of pedestrians and cyclists crossing Bayview Avenue north of Ruddington Drive generated from the Finch Corridor Trail will increase with the addition of the both the existing BMX bicycle facility and a proposed dog park located behind the Bayview Arena.

Our assessment of the crossing location is based on both the posted speed limit and our observations of the prevailing traffic operating speeds. This location has four traffic lanes plus a centre turn lane and traffic volumes approaching 35,000 vehicles per day. Accordingly, traffic control signal controls are the recommended device to provide a safe mid-block crossing for pedestrians and cyclists using the trail.

The Ward Councillor has been advised of the recommendations contained within this staff report.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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Director

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Location Map – Traffic Control Signal at Bayview Avenue 100 metres north of Ruddington Drive