



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Temporary Parking Amendments – Bloor Street West

Date:	April 22, 2013
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Acting Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District
Wards:	Trinity-Spadina, Ward 20
Reference Number:	Ts2013090te.top.doc

SUMMARY

Transportation Services has been requested by Councillor Adam Vaughan to temporarily rescind the 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, stopping prohibition on the north side of Bloor Street West, between Spadina Avenue and Bathurst Street. This modification will be undertaken during July and August of this year and will allow vehicles to park in the curb lane during this time period. These changes will reduce the westbound lanes on Bloor Street West and will be used as a trial period to assess the impacts of a permanent, physical lane reduction.

This proposal will result in the addition of about 52 parking spaces on the north side of Bloor Street West during the weekday afternoon peak period. After the trial period, the parking regulations will revert back to the existing posted signage.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council amend the "No Stopping, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday" regulation on the north side of Bloor Street West, between a point 72 metres east of Indian Road and Spadina Avenue, to operate between a point 72 metres east of Indian Road and Bathurst Street, from July 2, 2013 to August 30, 2013.
2. City Council rescind the "Pay & Display Parking, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday and 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Sunday" regulation on both sides of Bloor Street West, between Spadina Avenue and Bathurst Street.

3. City Council enact a "Pay & Display Parking, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday and 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Sunday" regulation on the north side of Bloor Street West, between Spadina Avenue and Bathurst Street.
4. City Council enact a "Pay & Display Parking, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday and 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Sunday" regulation on the south side of Bloor Street West, between Spadina Avenue and Bathurst Street.
5. City Council amend the "Taxicab Stand" for one taxicab on the south side of Bloor Street West, east of Brunswick Avenue, that operates at all times except 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday to operate at all times except 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., Monday to Friday.
6. City Council enact a "Pay & Display Parking, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday to Saturday and 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Sunday" regulation on the north side of Bloor Street West, between Spadina Avenue and Bathurst Street, from July 2, 2013 to August 30, 2013.
7. City Council direct that Bloor Street West, between Spadina Avenue and Bathurst Street, be returned to its normal parking regulations when the trial is complete.

Financial Impact

Funds to undertake the necessary signage adjustments in the estimated amount of \$2,000.00 are contained in the Transportation Services Division 2013 Operating Budget.

DECISION HISTORY

Toronto and East York Community Council, at its meeting on September 11, 2012, requested the Acting Director, Transportation Services, to review proposals to explore road alteration options on Bloor Street West, between Spadina Avenue and Bathurst Street, and report back to Community Council in the first quarter of 2013 (TE18.114).

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Transportation Services staff has investigated a request from Councillor Adam Vaughan to temporarily rescind the weekday afternoon peak period stopping prohibition to test the feasibility of a permanent lane reduction on Bloor Street West, between Spadina Avenue and Bathurst Street.

COMMENTS

Bloor Street West, between Spadina Avenue and Bathurst Street, is an east-west four-lane major arterial roadway with a speed limit of 50 km/h and a daily two-way traffic flow of about 22,000 to 24,000 vehicles. Traffic control signals in this section of Bloor Street West are located at Spadina Avenue, Robert Street/Walmer Road, Brunswick Avenue and Bathurst Street. The pavement width and right-of-way width on Bloor Street West are about 12.2 metres and 20.1 metres respectively, except on the block between Sussex

Mews and Spadina Road/Spadina Avenue, which is slightly wider. East-west transit service is generally provided by the 2 Bloor-Danforth subway line, with stations located at Bathurst and Spadina. Night-time transit service is provided by the 300 Bloor-Danforth bus.

Parking is generally permitted in the eastbound and westbound curb lanes of Bloor Street West at all times, except during the weekday peak period in the peak direction of travel. During these time periods, stopping is prohibited on the south side, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., Monday to Friday, and on the north side, between the hours of 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. There are about 52 parking spaces on the north side and about 41 parking spaces on the south side. Additionally, there is a taxi stand with space for one vehicle on the south side, west of Brunswick Avenue.

The land use on this section of Bloor Street West consists of mixed retail, with a high number of restaurants. The Bloor Annex BIA website indicates that there are about 41 businesses classified as 'dining establishments' on the north side and 26 on the south side. Other pedestrian generators on this street include the TTC subway stations, a grocery store, a church, a community centre and a cinema.

During the weekday morning peak hour, there is an average of about 1,000 eastbound motorists on Bloor Street West, with a range of 450-1,500 vehicles. During the weekday afternoon peak hour, there is an average of about 950 westbound motorists on Bloor Street West, with a range of 550-1,400 vehicles. Capacity analysis has disclosed that the loss of a traffic lane in either direction would potentially result in significant impacts to east-west traffic during the peak periods. The analysis indicates that up to 450 westbound motorists in the weekday afternoon peak hour could be displaced by the removal of the north curb lane. The reduced road capacity could potentially result in bottle-necks and redirecting traffic to adjacent residential streets.

However, to test the accuracy of the modelling, a trial will be undertaken this summer to reduce the westbound lanes in the afternoon peak period. This trial will be done by rescinding the stopping prohibition that operates between the hours of 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. This proposal will allow vehicles to park in the westbound curb lane of Bloor Street West in this time period and block one of the two lanes that are typically available to through traffic. This will allow the impacts of a permanent, physical closure on Bloor Street West to be evaluated. The proposal will be in effect between July 2, 2013 and August 30, 2013 and will also add parking opportunities for area businesses during this time period.

It is noted that traffic volumes are typically lower during the summer months, which should reduce the impacts of the proposal on the flow of traffic on the Bloor Street West corridor. Additionally, the City of Toronto's statutory parking regulations prohibit parking at all times in the approach and discharge lanes within 30.5 metres of signalized intersections. This allows for two lanes of traffic to enter and exit at intersections in the subject section of Bloor Street West, providing opportunities to pass turning vehicles even when parking is permitted on the rest of the street. If approved, a permanent lane

reduction will have worse operating conditions than the trial, as there will be a single lane for through traffic on Bloor Street West over the entire length, including signalized intersections.

To assess the impacts of the parking amendments on Bloor Street West, traffic studies will be undertaken before and after the changes are made. This will allow staff to measure the impacts the proposed changes have on traffic volumes, as well as the speed and delays of traffic on Bloor Street West. Additionally, staff will work with Councillor Vaughan's office to document any complaints or comments resulting from these parking changes.

At this time, the installation of bike corrals on Bloor Street West will not be included in the trial period parking amendments. Traffic Operations is currently working with Cycling Infrastructure and Programs to investigate the future installation of these facilities.

Finally, an inconsistency was noted between the by-lawed and signed regulations on both sides of Bloor Street West. The approval of Recommendations 2 to 5 will correct these discrepancies.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Jacqueline White, P.Eng.
Acting Director, Transportation Services
Toronto and East York District

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

(1) Drawing No. 421G-1062, dated April 2013

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