Parking and School Bus Loading Zone – Larchmount Avenue

Date: May 13, 2013
To: Toronto and East York Community Council
From: Acting Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District
Wards: Toronto-Danforth, Ward 30
Reference Number: Ts2013110te.top.docx

SUMMARY

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

Transportation Services is seeking authority to establish a school bus loading zone and a short-term parking area on the east side of Larchmount Avenue to serve the Bruce Public School (No. 51 Larchmount Avenue).

A school bus loading zone and a student pick-up/drop-off zone on the east side of Larchmount Avenue will enable school buses to pick-up and drop-off students at the front entrance of the school as well as enable parents to legally park for a maximum 20-minute period. This will resolve parking concerns expressed by the school principal and provide up to 13 short-term parking spaces.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Rescind the parking prohibition on the east side of Larchmount Avenue, between Eastern Avenue and Queen Street East.

2. Enact a school bus loading zone to be in effect at all times on the east side of Larchmount Avenue, between a point 155 metres south of Queen Street East and a point 18 metres further south.
3. Allow parking on the east side of Larchmount Avenue for a maximum period of 20 minutes, between a point 103 metres south of Queen Street East and a point 52 metres further south, and between a point 173 metres south of Queen Street East and a point 22 metres further south, from 7:15 a.m. to 9:15 a.m., 11:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and from 3:10 p.m. to 6:15 p.m., Monday to Friday.

4. Prohibit parking at any time on the east side of Larchmount Avenue, between Queen Street East and a point 103 metres south, and between a point 195 metres south of Queen Street East and Eastern Avenue.

5. Prohibit parking on the east side of Larchmount Avenue, between a point 103 metres south of Queen Street East and a point 52 metres further south, and between a point 173 metres south of Queen Street East and a point 22 metres further south, from 12:01 a.m. to 7:15 a.m., 9:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., 1:00 p.m. to 3:10 p.m., and from 6:15 p.m. to 12 midnight, Monday to Friday, and all day Saturday and Sunday.

Financial Impact
Funds to undertake the necessary signage adjustments in the estimated amount of $1,000.00 are contained within Transportation Services 2013 Operating Budget.

ISSUE BACKGROUND
Transportation Services, in consultation with Councillor Paula Fletcher, has investigated a request from the principal of the Bruce Public School to establish a school bus loading zone and a student pick-up/drop-off zone with short-term parking on the east side of Larchmount Avenue.

COMMENTS
Larchmount Avenue is a local road operating one-way northbound, between Eastern Avenue and Queen Street East, with a pavement width of 8.6 metres and a maximum speed limit of 30 km/h. Bruce Public School is located on the east side of Larchmount Avenue. The TTC does not operate service along Larchmount Avenue.

The following parking regulations are in effect on Larchmount Avenue, between Eastern Avenue and Queen Street East:

East side:
Parking is prohibited at all times.

West side:
Parking is allowed for a maximum period of three hours; and Parking is allowed by permit only from 12:01 a.m. to 7:00 a.m., daily.
Many parents drive their children to Bruce Public School and as a result, there is a high demand for short-term parking on Larchmount Avenue. There is no designated student pick-up/drop-off area or short duration parking allowed in the vicinity of the school. When parking is not available on the west side of Larchmount Avenue, parents generally park illegally on the east side of Larchmount Avenue, which obstructs curb-side access to the main entrance to the school for school buses.

The principal at Bruce Public School has requested that a student pick-up/drop-off area be designated and that short-term parking be allowed on the east side of Larchmount Avenue in front of the school to help accommodate the parking demands of parents at arrival and dismissals times. The principal has also requested that a school bus loading zone be designated on the east side of Larchmount Avenue in front of the main entrance to the school to better facilitate those students currently being transported by bus.

It is feasible to establish a student pick-up/drop-off zone on the east side of Larchmount Avenue in front of Bruce Public School, from a point 103 metres south of Queen Street East to a point 52 metres further south, and from a point 173 metres south of Queen Street East and a point 22 metres further south. The principal has requested that the parking be allowed for a maximum period of 20 minutes during arrival and dismissal times, from 7:15 a.m. to 9:15 a.m., 11:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and 3:10 p.m. to 6:15 p.m., Monday to Friday.

The 8.6 metre pavement width of Larchmount Avenue can safely accommodate short-term parking on the east side of the street, in addition to the existing parking on the west side, and maintain a one-way traffic operation. Designating a student pick-up/drop-off zone will help accommodate the parking demands of parents and clearly identify an area where this activity can safely take place.

Establishing a school bus loading zone on the east side of Larchmount Avenue, from a point 155 metres south of Queen Street East to a point 18 metres further south, will provide curb-side access to the front entrance to Bruce Public School and maintain uninterrupted traffic flow along Larchmount Avenue.
Presently, school bus operators, when stopped to pick-up/drop-off students on the east side of Larchmount Avenue, are required by law to activate the red flashing lights. During this process motorists on Larchmount Avenue must stop until the lights are deactivated. Establishing a school bus loading zone will allow school bus drivers to pick-up/drop-off students without engaging their red flashing lights, and thus maintain uninterrupted traffic.

**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-1085, dated May 2013

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