STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED

Westbound Left-turn Prohibition – Bremner Boulevard and York Street

Date: May 29, 2013
To: Toronto and East York Community Council
From: Acting Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District
Wards: Trinity-Spadina, Ward 20
Toronto Centre-Rosedale, Ward 28
Reference Number: Ts2013123te.top

SUMMARY

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

Transportation Services is requesting approval to prohibit westbound left turns from Bremner Boulevard to York Street during the weekday afternoon peak period. This prohibition is intended to reduce congestion on Bremner Boulevard, east of York Street.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Prohibit westbound left turns from Bremner Boulevard to York Street, from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, except public holidays.

Financial Impact

The estimated cost of sign fabrication and installation is $500.00. These funds are contained in the Transportation Services 2013 Operating Budget.

BACKGROUND

At the request of Councillor Pam McConnell, on behalf of local residents, Transportation Services reviewed the feasibility of prohibiting westbound left turns from Bremner Boulevard to York Street during the weekday afternoon peak period. This prohibition is intended to reduce congestion on Bremner Boulevard, east of York Street.
COMMENTS
The westbound approach on Bremner Boulevard at York Street consists of a shared through/left-turn lane and shared through/right-turn lane. There is no TTC service at this intersection.

Our field observations have revealed that westbound left turns generally cannot be made during the weekday afternoon peak period due to southbound traffic congestion on York Street. Right turning vehicles also experience some delay due to pedestrians crossing the north side of the intersection. This combination results in westbound queues extending back along Bremner Boulevard and into parking garages east of York Street. There are about 100 westbound left turns and 100 westbound right turns per hour made during the weekday afternoon peak period at this intersection.

Prohibiting westbound left turns during the weekday afternoon peak period will reduce westbound delays and the delays experienced by motorists exiting parking garages on Bremner Boulevard, east of York Street. The majority of motorists turning left onto York Street travel to the westbound Gardiner Expressway. As a result, it is anticipated that most of the displaced traffic will proceed through on Bremner Boulevard and use Lower Simcoe Street, Rees Street or Spadina Avenue to proceed west.

Councillors McConnell and Vaughan have been advised about this proposal.

CONTACT
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SIGNATURE

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Toronto and East York District

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS
(1) Drawing No. 421G-1100, dated May 2013