Turn Prohibition – Strachan Avenue at Fleet Street/Manitoba Drive

Date: March 4, 2014
To: Toronto and East York Community Council
From: Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District
Wards: Trinity-Spadina, Ward 19
Reference Number: Ts2014033te.top.doc

SUMMARY
Transportation Services is requesting approval from City Council to prohibit southbound right turns on a red signal at the intersection of Strachan Avenue and Fleet Street/Manitoba Drive. Currently, this prohibition is designated with temporary conditions signage which is not legally enforceable. The proposed prohibition will prevent potential conflicts between southbound right-turning motorists and east-west streetcars using regulatory signage.

RECOMMENDATIONS
Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council prohibit southbound right turns on a red signal from Strachan Avenue to Fleet Street/Manitoba Drive at all times.

Financial Impact
The estimated cost to undertake the signage adjustments are $200.00. Funds are contained in the Transportation Services Division 2014 Operating Budget.

COMMENTS
The intersection of Strachan Avenue and Fleet Street/Manitoba Drive is controlled by traffic signals. Strachan Avenue is a minor arterial road with a daily two-way traffic flow of about 19,000 vehicles and a speed limit of 40 km/h. It consists of a lane for general traffic and a bicycle lane in each direction. Additionally, north-south left-turn lanes are provided at the intersection with Fleet Street/Manitoba Drive.
Fleet Street is a collector roadway with a daily two-way traffic flow of about 7,600 vehicles and a speed limit of 50 km/h. It intersects the east side of Strachan Avenue and consists of a lane for general traffic in each direction. Additionally, there are streetcar tracks on Fleet Street that operate on an exclusive right-of-way. Manitoba Drive is a park road that provides an entrance to the Exhibition Place grounds, opposite Fleet Street. There are streetcar tracks on the north side of Manitoba Drive. Transit service at this intersection is provided by the 509 Harbourfront and 511 Bathurst streetcars.

Presently, southbound right-turns-on-red are prohibited at all times at this intersection with temporary conditions signage. This type of sign has an orange background and has been in place at this intersection for a number of years. As a temporary sign, it is not supported in the traffic by-law and is not enforceable.

East-west streetcars operate on their own exclusive signal phase when crossing through this intersection. Unlike, most normal intersections, a southbound right-turning motorist from Strachan Avenue crosses the path of east-west streetcars due to the unusual intersection geometry. This means that motorists making this turn on a red signal could come into conflict with an eastbound or westbound streetcar. Therefore, the southbound right turn should not be allowed during the red signal.

The proposed right-turn-on-red prohibition for southbound motorists on Strachan Avenue and Fleet Street/Manitoba Drive will replace the existing signage with regulatory signage, which has a white background. This new signage will provide enhanced guidance to motorists and will be legally enforceable. Councillor Layton has been advised of this proposed change and has no objections.

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SIGNATURE

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

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS
(1) Drawing No. 421G-1352, dated March 2014

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