Road Alterations – Spadina Road

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<th>Date:</th>
<th>February 25, 2014</th>
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<td>To:</td>
<td>Toronto and East York Community Council</td>
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<td>From:</td>
<td>Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District</td>
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<td>Wards:</td>
<td>St. Paul's, Ward 22</td>
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<td>Report Number:</td>
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**SUMMARY**

Transportation Services is requesting approval from City Council to re-align the curb on the south east corner of Spadina Road and Thelma Avenue.

The re-alignment of the curb on the south east corner of Spadina Road at Thelma Avenue is intended to replace the existing modular traffic islands at this location. They were originally installed to serve as a physical deterrent to motorists parking illegally on the east side of Spadina Road. Motorists would park right up to the corner of the intersection at Thelma Avenue obstructing sightlines for motorists turning to/from Thelma Avenue and pedestrians crossing at the intersection.

Another road alteration proposal at this intersection, for the installation of a lay-by on the south side of Thelma Avenue, immediately east of Spadina Road, is dealt with in a companion report "Road Alterations – Thelma Avenue" requiring Toronto and East York Community Council approval.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council approve the narrowing of Spadina Road at Thelma Avenue, generally as shown on Drawing No. 421G-1020, dated March 2013, attached to the February 25, 2014 report entitled "Road Alterations – Spadina Road ", from the Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District.
Financial Impact
The estimated cost of the curb build-out on Spadina Road at Thelma Avenue is $53,000.00. Funds are contained in the Economic Development and Culture Division 2014 Capital Budget.

ISSUE BACKGROUND
At the request of the Toronto Parking Authority, and in consultation with the Forest Hill BIA and the Economic Development and Culture Division, Transportation Services was requested to investigate the feasibility of constructing a build-out of the curb on the east side of Spadina Road at Thelma Avenue and the construction of a lay-by on the south side of Thelma Avenue, immediately east of Spadina Road.

The build-out of the curb will replace the existing traffic islands at this corner, which were installed to reduce illegal parking on Spadina Road near the corner of Thelma Avenue and to improve pedestrian and motorists sightlines. The curb build-out will continue to accomplish this, while also creating an enhanced pedestrian environment within the historic Spadina Village.

As mentioned above, a companion road alteration report, for the installation of the lay-by on Thelma Avenue, will be submitted to Toronto and East York Community Council for approval.

COMMENTS
Spadina Road, in the vicinity of Thelma Avenue, is a two-lane, minor arterial roadway with a daily two-way traffic volume of approximately 17,000 vehicles and a speed limit of 40 km/h. Spadina Road operates on a pavement width of 14.5 metres south of Thelma Avenue and operates on a pavement width of 8.5 metres north of Thelma Avenue. Thelma Avenue intersects the east side of Spadina Road in a T-type intersection and has a westbound “Stop” sign at Spadina Road. The TTC operates the "Forest Hill – 33" bus route on Spadina Road. The proposed construction of a curb build-out at this intersection will have no impact on TTC service.

Parking on the east side of Spadina Road, south of Thelma Avenue, is controlled by Pay-and-Display Parking Machines and is permitted for a maximum period of three hours from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday to Saturday, and from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Sunday. Outside of the above-noted time periods, parking is allowed at no charge for a maximum period of three hours. A "No Parking Anytime" regulation is posted on the east side of Spadina Road from Thelma Avenue to a point about 14 metres south.

In 2012, two traffic islands were installed on the east side of Spadina Road, immediately south of Thelma Avenue, as a means to provide a physical deterrent to motorists who frequently park illegally right up to the intersection. As a result of this illegal parking, sightlines between northbound motorists and pedestrians crossing on the east leg of the intersection were reduced. Also, sightlines between northbound and westbound motorists were reduced. Local residents expressed their concerns about the reduced visibility. Although the placement of the existing traffic islands have been beneficial for preventing
illegal parking and for maintaining clear sightlines at this location, they are not particularly pedestrian friendly, in that they are separated from the east side sidewalk and are not designed to accommodate, or be easily accessible to all pedestrians.

As a means to improve the pedestrian environment at this intersection, the Forest Hill BIA approached the Economic Development and Culture Division, with a request to remove the existing traffic islands and reconfigure the southeast corner of Spadina Road at Thelma Avenue through the construction of a build-out of the curb. The narrowing of Spadina Road at this location will enhance the pedestrian environment, improve the public realm and will also be compatible with the local Forest Hill BIA’s Streetscape Master Plan projects that have been proposed within the Spadina Village. There will be no impact to the number of parking spaces on Spadina Road.

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SIGNATURE

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

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS
(1) Drawing No. 421G-1020, dated March 2013