Turn Prohibition – Roncesvalles Avenue at Queen Street West/King Street West/The Queensway

**Date:** March 6, 2014

**To:** Toronto and East York Community Council

**From:** Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District

**Wards:** Parkdale-High Park, Ward 14

**Reference Number:** Ts2014036te.top.doc

**SUMMARY**

Transportation Services is requesting approval from City Council to rescind the southbound right turn on red turn prohibition at the intersection of Roncesvalles Avenue and Queen Street West/King Street West/The Queensway. The existing prohibition is not required from a traffic operations standpoint and the rescission will reduce delays for southbound traffic at this intersection, including TTC streetcars.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council rescind the southbound right turn on a red signal prohibition from Roncesvalles Avenue to The Queensway in effect at all times.

**Financial Impact**

Funds to undertake the necessary signage adjustments in the estimated amount of $200.00 are contained within Transportation Services 2014 Operating Budget.

**ISSUE BACKGROUND**

Transportation Services was requested by the TTC to investigate the rescission of the southbound right turn on red prohibition at the intersection of Roncesvalles Avenue and Queen Street West/King Street West/The Queensway to reduce delays for southbound TTC streetcars. The review determined that this regulation is not required and can be rescinded.
COMMENTS

The intersection of Roncesvalles Avenue and Queen Street West/King Street West/The Queensway is controlled by traffic control signals. All roadways at this intersection are four-lane arterials with a speed limit of 50 km/h and streetcar tracks operating on a shared right-of-way in the median lanes. Transit service at this intersection is provided by the 501 Queen, 504 King and the 508 Lake Shore streetcar routes. There are near-side transit stops on all intersection approaches. Additionally, a streetcar platform is provided for the eastbound transit stop.

Eastbound left turns are prohibited between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday to Saturday and southbound right-turns-on-red are prohibited at all times. Additionally, heavy trucks are prohibited on Roncesvalles Avenue, between the hours of 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., daily.

The southbound right turn on red prohibition was introduced prior to 1965. It is not clear why this prohibition was originally enacted, although these restrictions are generally provided where the following conditions exist:

1. Poor sightlines between different road users.
2. Unusual intersection geometry (i.e. offset intersection or dual turn lanes).
3. High pedestrian volumes.

There are no sightline problems or unusual geometry between southbound and westbound road users at this intersection. Also, the volume of pedestrians at this intersection is not high as there are approximately 75 pedestrians per hour crossing on the west leg of the intersection. A review of Toronto Police Service collision statistics for a five-year period ending December 31, 2013 did not disclose any collisions between southbound right-turning vehicles and pedestrians crossing on the west leg of the intersection.

Due to the layout of the TTC's yard to the northwest of this intersection, the streetcar storage tracks can only be accessed from westbound The Queensway. Consequently, the tracks on Roncesvalles Avenue and The Queensway are used extensively for TTC yard operations. After leaving the cleaning and maintenance facilities, streetcars exit onto Roncesvalles Avenue, travel south and make the right turn onto The Queensway to re-enter the yard to access the storage tracks.

Because of the three-phase signal operation at this intersection as well as the southbound right-turn-on-red prohibition, turning streetcars may incur lengthy delays. It is acknowledged that streetcars make the southbound right turn into the westbound median lane which may be inaccessible during the peak periods due to heavy traffic volumes. However, the TTC's movements would primarily be made outside the peak periods. Therefore, the rescission of the southbound right turn on red prohibition would be of significant benefit to the TTC, as well as other users of this intersection.
Based on the minimal safety impacts and projected benefits to motorists including TTC streetcars, the right turn on red prohibition at the intersection of Roncesvalles Avenue and Queen Street West/King Street West/The Queensway can be rescinded without any undue negative safety impacts. Councillor Perks has been advised of this proposed change and has no objections.

CONTACT
Shirendra Giri, C.E.T., Transportation Technologist
Traffic Operations, Toronto and East York District
Telephone: 416-338-5403
Fax: 416-392-1920
e-mail: sgiri@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

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

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS
(1) Drawing No. 421G-1381, dated March 2014