Turn Prohibitions – Edwin Avenue at Dupont Street

Date:    July 11, 2014
To:      Toronto and East York Community Council
From:    Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District
Wards:   Davenport, Ward 18
Reference Number: Ts2014112te.top

SUMMARY

Transportation Services is requesting approval from City Council to prohibit turning movements to the south leg of the intersection of Edwin Avenue and Dupont Street (bicycles excepted). The proposed regulations will address operational concerns resulting from the narrow road width on Edwin Avenue and improve the access for cyclists to the West Toronto Railpath.

RECOMMENDATIONS
Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council prohibit eastbound right turns at all times on Dupont Street at Edwin Avenue (bicycles excepted).
2. City Council prohibit southbound straight throughs at all times on Edwin Avenue at Dupont Street (bicycles excepted).
3. City Council prohibit westbound left turns at all times on Dupont Street at Edwin Avenue (bicycles excepted).

Financial Impact
Funds to undertake the necessary signage and pavement marking adjustments at Edwin Avenue and Dupont Street in the estimated amount of $2,000.00 are contained in the Transportation Services Division 2014 Operating Budget.
 ISSUE BACKGROUND
Transportation Services staff, at the request of Councillor Ana Bailão, has investigated options to improve the operation of Edwin Avenue, south of Dupont Street, to address operational concerns resulting from the narrow road width and improve cyclist access to/from the West Toronto Railpath.

 COMMENTS
The intersection of Dupont Street and Edwin Avenue is controlled by traffic signals. Dupont Street is a major arterial road with a speed limit of 50 km/h and a daily two-way traffic volume of about 24,000 vehicles. TTC service on Dupont Street is provided by the 26 Dupont bus and there are no stops provided at the intersection with Edwin Avenue.

Edwin Avenue, between Dupont Street and Ruskin Avenue, is a local roadway that operates with two-way traffic. It has a daily two-way traffic volume of about 900 vehicles, a posted speed limit of 40 km/h and a pavement width of 6.5 metres. Heavy trucks are prohibited on Edwin Avenue at all times and there is no TTC service provided on this street.

Currently, parking is prohibited at all times on the west side of Edwin Avenue. On the east side, permit parking is in effect between the hours of 12:01 a.m. and 7:00 a.m., daily. Parking is otherwise allowed for a maximum period of three hours. The existing pavement width on Edwin Avenue is less than what is preferred for two-way traffic with on-street parking. Residents report concerns when passing opposing traffic, especially with larger vehicles.

There are presently bicycle lanes designated on Dupont Street. Additionally, there is access to the West Toronto Railpath at the south end of Edwin Avenue, via Ruskin Avenue. Transportation Services has reviewed the feasibility of operating Edwin Avenue as one-way northbound, with a contra-flow bicycle lane. Unfortunately, the narrow pavement width on Edwin Avenue precludes the installation of contra-flow bicycle lanes without the removal of parking over the entire length.

As an alternative, a proposal to prohibit entry to southbound Edwin Avenue at the intersection with Dupont Street (bicycles excepted) has been evaluated. This proposal will achieve the following goals on Edwin Avenue, between Dupont Street and Ruskin Avenue:

a) address the concerns associated with two-way traffic on a narrow roadway by eliminating the majority of southbound vehicular traffic, including non-local, cut-through motorists; and
b) improve cyclist safety by eliminating southbound traffic and providing a direct connection between bicycle routes.

This proposal will inconvenience residents of Edwin Avenue who may have to travel a more circuitous route to/from their homes. The most likely route for displaced traffic
will be Franklin Avenue. Additionally, this may encourage motorists on Edwin Avenue to undertake U-turns, since the street is not technically a one-way street.

The proposal was discussed at a community meeting with Councillor Bailão's office on July 3, 2014 and there was consensus in favour of the turn restrictions to prohibit entry to southbound Edwin Avenue at the intersection with Dupont Street (bicycles excepted).

**CONTACT**

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**SIGNATURE**

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**LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

(1) Drawing No. 421G-1478, dated July 2014

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