School Zone Safety Review: Blacksmith Crescent (Blacksmith Public School)

**Date:** November 24, 2014

**To:** North York Community Council

**From:** Director, Transportation Services, North York District

**Wards:** Ward 8 – York West

**Reference Number:** p:/2015/ClusterB/TRA/NorthYork/ny15007

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**SUMMARY**

This staff report is about a matter that Community Council has delegated authority to make a final decision, provided that it is not amended so that it varies with City policy or by-laws.

Transportation Services is requesting approval to amend the existing parking and stopping regulations on Blacksmith Crescent in order to address the concerns of the School Administration with regards to the current drop-off and pick-up activity and traffic congestion on Blacksmith Crescent.

The amendments to the existing parking regulations will address the concerns with regards to traffic congestion, drop-off and pick-up activity and will also maintain consistency with other parking regulations on Blacksmith Crescent.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Transportation Services recommends that North York Community Council:

1. Approve the deletion of No Parking Anytime on the north and east side of Blacksmith Crescent between Gosford Boulevard (south intersection) and a point 300 metres west.

2. Prohibit parking from 12:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., on the north side of Blacksmith Crescent from Gosford Boulevard (south intersection) to a point 245 metres west.
3. Prohibit stopping from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday on the north, east and south side of Blacksmith Crescent from a point 245 metres west of Gosford Boulevard (south intersection) to a point 121 metres west, north and east thereof.

**Financial Impact**

All costs associated with the installation of the parking prohibitions are included within the Transportation Services 2015 Operating Budget estimates.

**ISSUE BACKGROUND**

Transportation Services was requested by the Toronto Police Service Parking Enforcement Unit (TPS-PEU) to review of the existing parking and stopping regulations on Blacksmith Crescent associated with Blacksmith Public School.

Transportation Services Staff met with representatives of the TPS-PEU and the School Administration of Blacksmith Public School to define the concerns of all parties. We also conducted a review of the activity and regulations in the vicinity of the school.

**COMMENTS**

Blacksmith Crescent is classified as a local roadway with a posted speed limit of 40 km/h. Municipal sidewalks are located on both sides of the roadway and the pavement width is approximately 8.5 metres. Blacksmith Public School is located on the outer perimeter of the crescent at the west end of the roadway and the remaining portion is comprised of single family homes.

The parking/stopping regulations for Blacksmith Crescent are as follows:

- Parking is prohibited anytime on the north and east side between Gosford Boulevard (south intersection) and a point 300 metres west.

- Parking is prohibited anytime on the north, west, and south side between Gosford Boulevard (north intersection) and Gosford Boulevard (south intersection).

- Parking is prohibited from 12:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. on the south side between a point 56 metres west of Gosford Boulevard (north intersection) and a point 175 metres west of Gosford Boulevard (north intersection).

- Parking is prohibited anytime on the south side between Gosford Boulevard (north intersection) and a point 56 metres west of Gosford Boulevard (north intersection).

- School Bus Loading Zone (SBLZ) is located on the west side of Blacksmith Crescent between a point 292.6 metres west of Gosford Boulevard (north
To identify existing traffic conditions on Blacksmith Crescent, Transportation Staff has conducted a School Zone Review (SZR) during the a.m. and p.m. arrival and dismissal times. The results of the study are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Study Periods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-Street School Side Parking</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-Street Opposite Side Parking</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Parking Lot – IN</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Parking Lot – OUT</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking in Residential Driveways</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double Parking</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three-Point Turns</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During the completion of our review, we observed that motorists stopped/parked on both sides of the roadway. This activity restricts the safe and efficient flow of two-way traffic and also promotes students being dropped-off/picked-up by their parents to cross the roadway between parked vehicles.

It was also observed that several of the southbound motorists on Blacksmith Crescent elected to double park, thereby blocking the traffic flow. There was one mini and one large school bus that used the existing School Bus Loading Zone during each study period.

In view of our review and the School Administration's request, it is our opinion that current on-street parking/stopping prohibitions are not adequately addressing the needs of the school and parents. Furthermore, the current parking activity is negatively affecting the overall safety of motorists and pedestrians along the roadway.

In order to improve the existing conditions, parking and stopping restrictions on Blacksmith Crescent should be amended to discourage curb side drop-off on the opposite side of the roadway by prohibiting stopping during the day time hours as follows:

- Install No Stopping 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday on the north, east and south side of Blacksmith Crescent from a point 245 metres west of Gosford Boulevard (south intersection) to a point 121 metres thereof. (East property line of 34 Blacksmith Crescent to the east property line of 52 Blacksmith Crescent).
The above recommendations have been presented to the TPS-PEU and the School Administration and they are in agreement with the proposed changes.

Our review has further indicated that the current on-street signage for No Parking from 12:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. on the north and east side of Blacksmith Crescent between Gosford Boulevard (south intersection) and a point 300 metres west does not reflect the current by-law regulations. The current by-law regulation indicates that for this section of roadway parking is prohibited at anytime. The regulations should be amended to reflect the posted signs, thus having no impact on the residents of the roadway.

These changes will address the safety concerns of the School Administration at Blacksmith Public School to ensure that the school zone is properly regulated. Proactive involvement by the School Administration to educate parents on the importance of compliance, will further improve safety.

The Ward Councillor supports the recommendations of this staff report.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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Jacqueline White, P. Eng.
Director

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Map – Parking and Stopping Prohibitions: Blacksmith Cres