

Road Alteration: Yonge Street at Lawrence Avenue

Date:	August 12, 2015
To:	North York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services, North York District
Wards:	Eglinton - Lawrence, Ward 16
Reference Number:	<i>p:\2015/Cluster B/TRA/North York/ny15061</i>

SUMMARY

Transportation Services is requesting approval to widen the sidewalk in front of the Lawrence Subway Station entrance at 3080 Yonge Street as part of the redevelopment of the property. The southbound curb lane will be narrowed, but there will be no change to the number of lanes available for southbound motorists on Yonge Street.

As the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates the 97 Yonge and 320 Yonge bus routes on this section of Yonge Street, City Council approval is required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council approve the narrowing of the west side of Yonge Street, between Lawrence Avenue West and a point 68.8 metres north, generally as shown on Drawing No. NYRD15-0051, attached to the staff report dated August 12, 2015 and entitled "Road Alteration: Yonge Street at Lawrence Avenue".

Financial Impact

All costs associated with the modifications to the west side of Yonge Street, north of Lawrence Avenue, will be borne by the developer of 3080 Yonge Street as a condition of site plan approval.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Urban strategies on behalf of Yonge and Lawrence Inc., have submitted a site plan application to re-develop the property at 3080 Lawrence Avenue West. Their Proposal is to renovate an existing 6-storey mixed-use building, adding 1,828m² of gross floor area

for a proposed grocery store and new internal subway entrance. With this proposal, an opportunity was identified to increase the size of the public realm on Yonge Street to a width of 4.8 metres and to address an overly wide southbound curb lane at the intersection of Yonge Street and Lawrence Avenue West.

COMMENTS

The northwest corner of Lawrence Avenue West and Yonge Street is the primary entrance to TTC Lawrence subway station and is also the location of the transit stop for the 97 Yonge and 320 Yonge bus routes. The proposal is to widen the sidewalk on the northwest corner of the Yonge Street/Lawrence Avenue intersection by narrowing the southbound curb lane to 3.6 metres. Additional sidewalk width will reduce pedestrian congestion and contribute to the City's public realm goals by increasing the sidewalk width from 2.7 metres to 4.8 metres wide. There will be no reduction in the number of lanes provided for southbound traffic on Yonge Street.

Southbound Yonge Street, approaching Lawrence Avenue, consists of an exclusive left turn lane, a through lane, and a shared right turn/through lane. The shared southbound right turn/through lane is 6.1 metres at its widest extent. Parking and standing are currently prohibited at all times, and stopping is prohibited during the morning peak period, on the west side of Yonge Street in this vicinity.

Due to the current width of the southbound curb lane, vehicles often attempt to travel through in that lane while vehicles are stopped against the curb or while vehicles are making a southbound right turn to Lawrence Avenue. This curb lane was not designed to accommodate two vehicles side-by-side, and as a result, there have been a number of rear-end and side-swipe collisions at this location. Reducing the width of this lane, in addition to increasing the space for pedestrians on the sidewalk, would improve the safety for motorists. There may be some increase in delay to southbound motorists in the curb lane, as stopped or turning vehicles will fully occupy the lane.

TTC staff have been consulted and have accepted the design concept. City staff will continue to consult with the TTC as we move through detailed design.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Jacqueline White, P. Eng
Director, Transportation Services, North York District

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Alteration Drawing No. NYRD15-0051 – Yonge Street at Lawrence Avenue