



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Parking Amendments – Bloor-Yorkville Area

Date:	July 22, 2015
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District
Wards:	Toronto Centre–Rosedale, Ward 27
Reference Number:	Ts2015136te.top.doc

SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter for which Toronto and East York Community Council has delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision.

The Bloor-Yorkville BIA has requested that Transportation Services review the feasibility of amending the current parking, stopping, standing, commercial loading zones, hours of operation for pay-and-display machines and parking for restricted periods regulations in the Bloor-Yorkville area, in order improve both traffic operations and on-street parking for consumers, generally as shown in the attached Drawing Nos. 421G-1860, 421G- 1866, 421G- 1867, dated August 2015.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Rescind the parking regulations outlined in Appendix “A” attached to the report entitled, "Bloor-Yorkville Area: Parking regulations to be rescinded", from the Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District; and
2. Enact the parking regulations outlined in Appendix “B” attached to the report entitled, "Bloor-Yorkville Area: Parking regulations to be enacted", from the Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District.

Financial Impact

Funds to undertake the necessary signage adjustments in the estimated amount of \$3,000.00 are contained within Transportation Services 2015 Operating Budget. The Toronto Parking Authority advises that the funds required to install "Pay and Display" parking on Sultan Street, in addition to the various signage and operating time adjustments required, are available in the Toronto Parking Authority 2015 "Pay-and-Display" Machines Installation Program.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Bloor-Yorkville BIA, in consultation with Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, Toronto Parking Authority and Transportation Services, requested the introduction of various parking amendments in the Bloor-Yorkville Area. The proposed parking changes will help improve traffic operations, provide additional on-street loading and parking opportunity, and provide more on-street parking time for consumers.

COMMENTS

The Bloor-Yorkville Area is bounded by St Mary's Street to the south, Church Street to the east, Davenport Road to the north and Avenue Road to the west. This area is comprised of a mixture of upscale dining, shopping, condominiums and luxury hotels. There are also many offices and professional services located in this area.

The proposed parking amendments are limited to the following streets in the Bloor-Yorkville Area:

- Cumberland Street, between Avenue Road and Yonge Street.
- Yorkville Avenue, between Avenue Road and Bellair Street.
- Bellair Street, between Cumberland Street and Yorkville Avenue.
- Sultan Street, between St Thomas Street and its westerly terminus.
- St Thomas Street, between Bloor Street West and Sultan Street.

Existing Conditions

Both Yorkville Avenue and Cumberland Street are classified as collector roadways and predominately operate in a one-way direction. Yorkville Avenue operates one-way westbound, except for the section between Bellair Street and Bay Street which operates two-way (westbound and eastbound). Cumberland Street operates one-way eastbound, except for a small section east of Bay Street which operates two-way (eastbound and westbound). Bellair Street is classified as a local roadway. This street operates one-way northbound from Cumberland Street to Yorkville Avenue, and two-way (northbound and southbound) from Bloor Street West to Cumberland Street.

The following parking regulations are currently in effect on these streets:

- Pay-and-display parking operates from 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m., Monday to Friday; 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m., Saturday; and 1:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m., Sunday
- Parking is prohibited from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday (Commercial Loading Zone).

The pavement width on these streets varies between 6 metres and 8.5 metres, the posted speed limit is 40 km/h and there is no TTC service.

St. Thomas Street (Bloor Street West to Sultan Street) and Sultan Street (St. Thomas Street to its west terminus) are classified as local roadways and both operate two-way. St. Thomas Street operates northbound/southbound and Sultan Street operates eastbound/westbound.

On this section of St Thomas Street, parking is prohibited at all times on the west side and standing is prohibited at all times on the east side of the street. Sultan Street has similar parking restrictions. Parking is currently prohibited at all times on the north side and standing is prohibited at all times on the south side of the street.

The pavement width on these streets varies between 6.4 metres and 7.3 metres, the speed limit is 50 km/h and there is no TTC service.

Proposed Parking Amendments

The Bloor-Yorkville BIA identified various on-street parking amendments that could be made in this area that would:

- improve traffic operations on St Thomas Street;
- generate additional on-street parking/loading opportunities on Sultan Street,
- generate additional loading/unloading opportunity on Cumberland Street, Yorkville Avenue; and
- provide more on-street parking time for consumers on Cumberland Street, Yorkville Avenue and on Bellair Street.

Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam and the Bloor-Yorkville BIA are requesting the following parking changes:

- a) Amend the current parking regulations on Cumberland Street (Avenue Road to Yonge Street), Yorkville Avenue (Avenue Road to Bellair Street), and Bellair Street (Cumberland Street to Yorkville Avenue) by extending the pay-and-display hours of operation in order to provide more on-street parking time for consumers.

Current Operating Hours

- Parking is currently prohibited from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday (Commercial Loading Zone).
- Pay-and-display parking currently operates from 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m., Monday to Friday; 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m., Saturday; and 1:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m., Sunday.

Proposed Operating Hours

- Parking would be prohibited from 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday (Commercial Loading Zone).
 - Pay-and-display parking would operate from 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m., Monday to Friday; 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m., Saturday; and 1:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m., Sunday.
- b) Implement two "Commercial Loading Zones" that operate at all times. One on Cumberland Street (Old York Lane to Bellair Street) and the other on Yorkville Avenue (Bellair Street to Hazelton Avenue).
- c) Implement a "Commercial Loading Zone" and "Pay-and-Display" parking on the north side of Sultan Street (St Thomas Street to the westerly terminus) with the same operating hours proposed in item a) for Cumberland Street, Yorkville Avenue and Bellair Street.
- d) Prohibit stopping at all times, on the west side of St Thomas Street, from Bloor Street West, to a point 37 metres south; and
- e) Implement a "Commercial Loading Zone" from a point 37 metres south of Bloor Street West, to Sultan Street (fronting the Windsor Arms Hotel/Residence).

Evaluation

Transportation Services is recommending amending the current parking regulations in the Bloor-Yorkville area as noted in items a) through e) above. The parking proposal for this area is also shown in the attached Drawing Nos. 421G- 1860, 421G- 1866, 421G- 1867 dated August 2015.

Changing the current "Pay-and-Display" hours of operation on Cumberland Street, Yorkville Avenue and Bellair Street as noted in item a), is technically feasible, and will provide consumers with additional on-street parking time. This parking proposal will not negatively impact traffic operations. By contrast, loading/unloading will be negatively impacted on these streets as operating times for this activity will be shortened by two hours. According to the Bloor-Yorkville BIA, loading/unloading activities typically take place between the proposed hours of 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, and therefore, the impacts should be minimal.

The proposed loading/unloading zones on Yorkville Avenue and Cumberland Street noted in item b), will operate at all times, and should also help businesses in the area, with deliveries that occur outside the current loading/unloading zone hours of operation. Two pay-and-display parking spaces will be eliminated as a result. However, this parking loss will have a minimal impact to the on-street parking demand in this area as on-street pay parking will be added on Sultan Street with the implementation this parking proposal.

Parking is currently prohibited at all times on the north side of Sultan Street between St. Thomas Street and its westerly terminus. As a result, motorists are currently parking long term on this section of Sultan Street and vehicles wishing to make deliveries or park are experiencing difficulty finding available on-street parking. This was confirmed by various field observations conducted by Transportation Services staff. Implementing a "Commercial Loading Zone" and "Pay-and-Display" parking as noted in item c), would generate loading/unloading opportunities, promote parking turnover, and generate approximately 6 on-street parking spaces in this area where parking is currently in high demand.

The Bloor-Yorkville BIA and local residents have expressed concern, on St Thomas Street, between Bloor Street West and Sultan Street, with the lack of road width available, to safely accommodate unobstructed two-way traffic flow. The road width along this section of St Thomas Street varies. This street is approximately 6.4 metres wide, except fronting the Windsor Arms Hotel/Residence, where the roadway widens to 7.5 metres, due to the presence of a lay-by. Parking is currently prohibited at all times, on the west side of St Thomas Street, but several field investigations revealed that vehicles are currently parking on this side of the roadway outside the lay-by. This reduces the roadway to approximately 4.4 metres, and cannot safely accommodate two-way traffic without the potential for vehicular/pedestrian conflicts. Drivers do not have the room to safely manoeuvre around on-coming traffic, resulting in an operational safety hazards for both pedestrians and motorists. In addition, Emergency Services requires that the City maintain at least 6 metres of unobstructed two-way traffic flow on roadways. Transportation Services is recommending to amend the parking regulations on the west side of St. Thomas Street, between Bloor Street West and Sultan Street, as noted in items d) and e) above. Increasing the parking regulations should deter parking, and improve traffic operations along this section of St Thomas Street. No on-street parking spaces will be lost with the implementation of this parking proposal.

Implementing a "Commercial Loading Zone" within the lay-by, fronting the Windsor Arms Hotel/Residence, would also deter long-term parking and provide a specific area, on-street, to load/unload. It should be noted, that a "Commercial Loading Zone" is a public facility, which may be used by anyone for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading merchandise, and no one has exclusive rights to the loading zone.

House-keeping Issues

During the course of our investigation it was also noted that there are discrepancies between the posted signs and the parking regulations by-law. The parking regulations outlined in Appendix "B", attached to the report, will correct these discrepancies.

Councillor Wong-Tam has been advised of these recommendations.

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SIGNATURE

Kyp Perikleous
Director, Transportation Services
Toronto and East York District

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

1. Drawing Nos. 421G- 1860, 421G- 1866, 421G- 1867, dated August 2015
2. Appendix A
3. Appendix B

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