



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

Accessible Loading Zone – Birch Avenue

Date:	August 19, 2015
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District
Wards:	St. Paul's, Ward 22
Reference Number:	Ts2015134te.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.

Transportation Services is requesting approval to install an accessible loading zone on the north side of Birch Avenue. The loading zone will operate at all times, to provide curb-side access for Wheel-Trans. This designation will remove two overnight permit parking spaces.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Designate an "Accessible Loading Zone" to operate at all times on the north side of Birch Avenue, between a point 124 metres west of Yonge Street and a point 14 metres further west.
2. Rescind the existing "No Parking, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday" regulation in effect on the north side of Birch Avenue, between Yonge Street and a point 161.8 metres west.
3. Prohibit parking from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, on the north side of Birch Avenue, from Yonge Street to a point 124 metres west, and from a point 138 metres west of Yonge Street to a point 23.8 metres further west.

4. Rescind the existing "Permit Parking" regulation in effect from 12:01 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., daily, on the even (north) side of Birch Avenue, from Yonge Street to the west end of Birch Avenue.
5. Allow parking by permit only from 12:01 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., daily, on the even (north) side of Birch Avenue, from Yonge Street to a point 124 metres west, and from a point 138 metres west of Yonge Street to the west end of Birch Avenue.
6. Amend the existing "One-hour Maximum Parking" regulation in effect at all times on the south side of Birch Avenue, between Yonge Street and a point 137.2 metres west, to operate between a point 120 metres west of Yonge Street and a point 48.5 metres further west.
7. Amend the existing pay-and-display "Parking Machine" regulation in effect from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday to Saturday and from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Sunday, for a maximum duration of 3 hours, at a rate of \$2.25 per hour, on the south side of Birch Avenue, between Yonge Street and a point 98 metres further west, to operate between Yonge Street and a point 107 metres west.

Financial Impact

Funds to undertake the installation of signs in the estimated amount of \$400.00 are contained in Transportation Services 2015 Operating Budget.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Transportation Services was requested to investigate establishing an on-street accessible loading zone on the north side of Birch Avenue, west of Yonge Street, to facilitate pick-up/drop-off activities by Wheel-Trans.

COMMENTS

Birch Avenue, between Yonge Street and Gange Avenue is classified as a local road with a posted speed limit of 40 km/h. Municipal sidewalks are located on both sides of the road and the pavement width is approximately 8.5 metres. There is no TTC service provided on Elm Street.

The following parking regulations are in effect on this section of Birch Avenue, west of Yonge Street:

North side

- "No Parking, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday to Friday" between Yonge Street and a point 161.8 metres west; and
- "No Parking, Except by Permit, 12:01 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at all times, except no parking 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, from Yonge Street to a point 161.8 metres west.

South side

- "Pay & Display Parking, 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday to Saturday; 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sunday" between Yonge Street and a point 98 metres further west; and
- "One-hour Maximum Parking, Anytime" between Yonge Street and a point 137.2 metres west.

It should be noted that there is a total of 66 parking spaces available and 35 overnight parking permits issued to residents on Birch Avenue

Transportation Services has been advised that Wheel-Trans vehicles frequently cannot stop next to the curb at this location, due to the presence of parked vehicles. When curb-side access is blocked by parked vehicles, the Wheel-Trans vehicle must double park, impeding traffic and causing safety concerns while loading/unloading passengers. To facilitate curb-side access, an accessible loading zone could be designated at this location.

In addition, the zone could also be used by any vehicle displaying a valid "Accessible Parking Permit" while actively engaged in pick-up/drop-off activity. The removal of two on-street permit parking spaces on Birch Avenue will not negatively impact residents.

Housekeeping Issues

Transportation Services also detected inconsistencies in the traffic bylaw related to the current signed parking regulations on the south side of Birch Avenue. These inconsistencies will be resolved with the approval of Recommendations No. 6 and No. 7 of this report.

Councillor Josh Matlow has been advised of the recommendations contained within this staff report.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Kyp Perikleous
Director, Transportation Services
Toronto and East York District

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

1. Drawing No. 421G-1861, dated August 2015

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