



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

**Right Turn Prohibition – Gardiner Eastbound Off-Ramp
at Park Lawn Road**

Date:	December 9, 2015
To:	Etobicoke York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services - Etobicoke York District
Wards:	Ward 6 – Etobicoke-Lakeshore
Reference Number:	p:\2016\Cluster B\TRA\EtobicokeYork\eycc160015-to

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to comment on the request from Etobicoke York Community Council at the meeting on November 10, 2015, to investigate the feasibility of restricting southbound (right) turns onto Park Lawn Road from the eastbound exit of the Gardiner Expressway, between 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., Monday to Friday for the duration of the rehabilitation of the Gardiner Expressway. (Anticipated completion October 31, 2016)

As a result of our studies, considering the significant impact of prohibiting right turns from the Gardiner Expressway eastbound exit ramp onto Park Lawn Road, staff recommend as an alternate option the addition of travel information onto the existing message sign on the Gardiner Expressway, west of Kipling Avenue, to advise motorists of predicted travel time if they use Park Lawn Road to Lake Shore Boulevard West.

As the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates transit service on the subject streets, City Council approval of this report is required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that City Council approve:

1. The addition of travel time information to the Message Sign on the Gardiner Expressway, west of Kipling Avenue, advising motorists of the travel time to downtown (Yonge Street) via Park Lawn Road and Lake Shore Boulevard West.
2. That Transportation Services staff conduct studies at an appropriate time following the addition of the Travel Time Message signs to determine the traffic impact on the Park Lawn Road/Lake Shore Boulevard West route.

Financial Impact

The estimated cost for installing the Variable Travel Time Message sign, including the Bluetooth equipment is \$15,000.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

As a result of a letter from Councillor Mark Grimes, presented at the Etobicoke York Community Council meeting on November 10, 2015 (EY10.37), the Director, Transportation Services, Etobicoke York was requested to "investigate the feasibility of restricting southbound (right) turns onto Park Lawn Road from the Eastbound Exit of the Gardiner Expressway, 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., Monday to Friday for the duration of the rehabilitation of the Gardiner Expressway, and to report back to Etobicoke York Community Council as soon as possible". A map of the area is Attachment 1.

COMMENTS

Park Lawn Road and Lake Shore Boulevard West are both major arterial roads that intersect south of the Gardiner Expressway. Park Lawn Road, south of the off-ramp from the Gardiner Expressway, was under construction throughout 2014/2015. With the construction now completed, the road cross-section was amended from three southbound lanes to four southbound lanes at Lake Shore Boulevard West. In addition, a westbound right turn lane was added on Lake Shore Boulevard West and Park Lawn Road.

The Gardiner Off-Ramp, where it intersects Park Lawn Road, is a signalized intersection with two lanes to turn left (northbound) and a channelized signal right turn lane to go south. The request for the right turn prohibition between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., Monday to Friday would apply to this right turn lane.

Staff conducted traffic counts at the intersection of the Gardiner Expressway Off-Ramp and Park Lawn Road in the morning peak period which revealed the following:

As shown in the table below, overall traffic volumes have increased at this intersection, both for left and right turns.

	AM Peak Hour					
Study Date	East Lefts	% Change	East Rights	% Change	Total	% Change
02/15/2012	613		776		1,389	
12/18/2014*	775	20.90%	648	-19.75%	1,423	2.39%
11/18/2015*	879	11.83%	722	10.25%	1,601	11.12%

*Reduced lanes on the Gardiner Expressway due to construction

In addition to the turning movement count, staff also conducted travel time studies. Specifically measured was the time it takes to travel between the Highway 427 ramp onto the Gardiner Expressway, to the intersection of Windermere Avenue and Lake Shore Boulevard West. The two trips were as follows:

Right Turn Prohibition – The Gardiner and Park Lawn Road

- The Gardiner Expressway, onto the express lanes, exiting from the Expressway onto Lake Shore Boulevard West at the Gardiner/Lake Shore split to the signals at Windermere Avenue.
- The Gardiner Expressway, staying in the Collector lanes, exiting via a right turn onto Park Lawn Road, and then turning left onto Lake Shore Boulevard West travelling to the signals at Windermere Avenue.

The travel times shown below:

Start Location: The Gardiner Expressway and Highway 427

End Location: Windermere Ave and Lake Shore Blvd W

Date: Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2015, 7:27 a.m. – 8:43 a.m.

Trip 1:

Route	Start Time	Finish Time	Total Travel Time
Gardiner Core\Lake Shore Boulevard West	7:27 a.m.	7:42 a.m.	15 min
Gardiner Collector\Park Lawn\Lake Shore	7:27 a.m.	7:47 a.m.	20 min

Trip 2:

Route	Start Time	Finish Time	Total Travel Time
Gardiner Core\ Lake Shore Boulevard West	8:04 a.m.	8:29 a.m.	25 min
Gardiner Collector\Park Lawn\Lake Shore	8:04 a.m.	8:43 a.m.	39 min

As shown above, exiting the Gardiner Expressway ramp onto Park Lawn Road/Lake Shore Boulevard increases motorists travel times as much as 14 minutes.

Prohibiting right turns from the Gardiner Expressway Off-ramp onto Park Lawn Road we feel would have significant side effects. Motorists, when confronted with this sign, would be forced to travel north on Park Lawn Road. The northbound left turn is already a congested movement as is the remainder of the trip northbound on Park Lawn Road and eastbound on The Queensway. Numerous complaints have also been received about this travel route and prohibiting right turns onto Park Lawn Road at the Gardiner Expressway ramp would only exacerbate this congestion.

Furthermore, we would anticipate high levels of non-compliance if a prohibition was installed at this intersection resulting in police enforcement to obtain compliance. It is unusual to have turns prohibited exiting from a highway off ramp, or even at the intersection of two major arterial roads where the traffic volumes are over 700 vehicles

per hour. As such, we were not able to find any comparable locations we could use in our review.

In addition, if this right turn prohibition was approved, motorists who have a destination in the area of Park Lawn Road and Lake Shore Boulevard West would have to find another route to arrive at their destination. We would anticipate that they would exit onto Islington Avenue and travel via Evans Avenue/Royal York to get to this area. Or we anticipate motorists may travel north on Park Lawn Road then make a u-turn to travel south. Many of the vehicles we observed turning right from the Gardiner Expressway onto Park Lawn Road were trucks generated as part of the condominium construction in the area. They also would need to find an alternate route.

In our opinion, many motorists are choosing to exit from the Gardiner Expressway onto Park Lawn Road as they feel they can reduce their travel time to downtown. Although this is not the case as we have noticed in our study, they are unaware of the traffic congestion until after they have committed to exiting off the Expressway. As such, staff is recommending that the Message Travel Time sign installed on the Gardiner Expressway, west of Kipling Avenue be amended to advise motorists of the travel time to Yonge Street via Park Lawn Road/Lake Shore Boulevard West. Armed with this knowledge, motorists can then make a decision at this point as to whether they want to stay with the Gardiner Expressway, or choose to exit via Park Lawn Road. Installation of the Bluetooth equipment required to display the travel time will occur early in 2016.

Staff intends to monitor the traffic volume and travel times following the installation of this message sign to determine if it has changed motorists driving patterns.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Map