Exclusive Left Turn Lane – Old Weston Road and Davenport Road

Date: February 11, 2016
To: Etobicoke York Community Council
From: Director, Transportation Services - Etobicoke York District
Wards: Ward 17 – Davenport
Reference Number: p:\2016\Cluster B\TRA\EtobicokeYork\eycc160052-to

SUMMARY
Transportation Services is requesting approval to designate the easterly southbound lane on Old Weston Road, between Davenport Road and a point 30.5 metres north, for southbound left turns only.

It is appropriate to install an exclusive southbound left turn lane based on the existing lane configuration, traffic counts, collision history and observations.

As the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates a transit service on Old Weston Road and Davenport Road, City Council approval of this report is required.

RECOMMENDATIONS
Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council designate the easterly southbound lane on Old Weston Road, between Davenport Road and a point 30.5 metres north, for southbound left turns only.

Financial Impact
The estimated cost for designating an exclusive left-lane will be $900.00. This can be accommodated within funds allocated by City Council as part of the Transportation Services Capital Budget.
ISSUE BACKGROUND
Transportation Services staff received a request from an area resident through 311, to determine if an exclusive southbound left turn lane would improve traffic operation and safety at the intersection of Old Weston Road and Davenport Road. As the TTC operates daily bus service on this route, they were consulted and have expressed no objections with this proposal. A map of the area is Attachment 1.

COMMENTS
Old Weston Road is classified in the City's Road Classification System as a 'Minor Arterial' road with a legal speed limit of 50 km/h. Old Weston Road at Davenport Road is a three-legged signalized intersection. The southbound left turn movement has an advanced left-turn phase. As such, the existing southbound lane configuration is two lanes at the approach to the intersection, whereas south of the intersection the lane configuration is one lane.

A recent site observation at the intersection indicates that the vast majority of southbound motorists treat the left lane as exclusive although it is not designated as such. In addition, traffic counts conducted at the intersection indicate that the southbound left turn volume is the predominant movement. Although not observed during our study, the sudden lane drop south of the intersection does pose the potential for southbound sideswipe conflicts. Our review of the collision history for the period from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2014 indicates no reported collisions involving southbound vehicles proceeding through the intersection simultaneously.

Given that south of the intersection, Old Weston Road has only one southbound lane, it is appropriate to designate the easterly southbound lane as an exclusive left turning lane and the westerly southbound lane as a through lane. This will clearly define the operation of the lanes at the intersection.

CONTACT
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SIGNATURE

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Director, Transportation Services - Etobicoke York District

ATTACHMENTS
Attachment 1: Map – Old Weston Road at Davenport Road