



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Traffic Control Signals – Finch Avenue West, 280m West of Sentinel Road and the Finch West LRT

Date:	March 30, 2016
To:	Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
From:	General Manager, Transportation Services
Wards:	Ward 8 - York West
Reference Number:	p:/2016/ClusterB/TRA/NorthYork/pw16001ny

SUMMARY

Transportation Services is responding to a request from Public Works and Infrastructure Committee to the future installation of traffic control signals at the intersection of Finch Avenue West and Fountainhead Road, in view of the future Finch West LRT in this area.

As part of the review of Official Plan Amendment and Rezoning Applications for 470 Sentinel Road and 1, 35 and 40 Fountainhead Road and 35 Fountainhead Road Draft Plan of Subdivision, necessary improvements to Fountainhead Road and Finch Avenue West were identified to accommodate increased traffic demands in the vicinity of this development, primarily, the extension of Fountainhead Road and the installation of a new full moves intersection with Finch Avenue West.

The installation of these traffic control signals will provide continued crossing facilities for pedestrians and improve the operation of the traffic control signals at the nearby intersection of Finch Avenue West and Sentinel Road.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council direct the General Manager, Transportation Services to continue to work with Metrolinx to protect for the future installation of traffic control signals at the intersection of Finch Avenue West and the future extension of Fountainhead Road, as approved at City Council in 2010, during the design and construction of the Finch West LRT.

Financial Impact

All costs associated with the design and construction of all required municipal infrastructure and utilities for the extension of Fountainhead Road shall be borne by the developer.

All incremental costs associated with protecting for the future traffic control signal during the construction of the Finch West LRT will be paid by Transportation Services. It is proposed that these costs will be included as part of the "Additional Infrastructure" category associated with the Metrolinx project.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

On May 11, 2010, City Council adopted a requirement for the applicant to construct the extension of Fountainhead Road to Finch Avenue West, including a new signalized intersection as part of Phase 1 of the development and prior to the issuance of any building permit for Buildings I, J, K, E and F in Phases 2 and 3. More specifically Recommendation 5d of the approved Community Planning Report.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2010.NY33.46>

On May 28, 2015, Public Works and Infrastructure Committee requested the General Manager, Transportation Services to review the requested traffic control signals at Finch Avenue West and the future Fountainhead Road, in view of the future Finch West LRT in this area, and report back to PWIC.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.PW5.15>.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

On June 29, 2010, the Ontario Municipal Board approved the developer's application to add eight additional condominium towers to the site at 470 Sentinel Road and 1, 35 and 40 Fountainhead Road. The development plans to add 1035 new dwelling units to the 1440 existing dwelling units currently on the site.

The addition of these units is expected to generate significant new traffic volumes in the area. In order to manage these volumes, and avoid overloading the Finch Avenue West and Sentinel Road intersection, an extension to Fountainhead Road that will connect with Finch Avenue West directly has been approved.

COMMENTS

Finch Avenue West is an east-west, four-lane major arterial roadway with a daily, two-way traffic flow of approximately 43,000 vehicles and a speed limit of 60 km/h. Fountainhead Road is a two-way local roadway with a speed limit of 50 km/h. Sentinel Road north of Finch Avenue West is a north-south, four lane (plus reserved bicycle lanes), minor arterial roadway with a daily, two-way traffic flow of approximately 15,000 vehicles and a speed limit of 50 km/h that provides access to York University.

The existing mid-block pedestrian signal on Finch Avenue West, 280m west of Sentinel Road was installed in 1996 and provides a vital pedestrian connection for users of Black Creek Trail (a multi-use trail along Black Creek) and provides both existing and future residents with direct connections to St. Wilfrid Catholic School, C.W. Jefferys Collegiate Institute, St. Wilfrids Catholic Church and York Woods library.

During the P.M. peak period, the intersection of Finch Avenue West and Sentinel Road currently operates near capacity. According to the Traffic Impact Study completed by the developer, the introduction of 1035 new units to the site will generate an additional 307 trips during the peak P.M. hour. Without a direct connection to Finch Avenue West all development traffic would be required to use Sentinel Road. The resulting total traffic would exceed the capacity of the intersection and would result in considerable delay at this already busy access to York University.

The Finch West LRT is an 11-kilometre light rail transit line that will run along the surface of Finch Avenue from Finch West Subway Station on the Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension at Keele Street to Humber College. Construction is currently estimated to begin in 2017. It is expected that construction of the Finch West LRT will commence in advance of any development on the Fountainhead Road site.

CONCLUSION

The extension of Fountainhead Road to create a full moves connection with Finch Avenue West at the existing mid-block pedestrian signal will allow both existing and future development traffic to access Finch Avenue West without adding to the already busy segment of Sentinel Road.

City staff have requested that Metrolinx consider the future Fountainhead Road extension in their design and construction of the LRT and protect for the future full moves connection to Finch Avenue West. Should the construction of Fountainhead Road extension proceed in advance of the Finch West LRT these traffic control signals would be installed and then the LRT project would incorporate the intersection and signalization into their design.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Stephen Buckley
General Manager, Transportation Services

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Drawing No. NYRD16-0014.DGN, dated Feb. 2016, entitled "FINCH AVENUE WEST & FOUNTAINHEAD ROAD, FUTURE TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL"