SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter that Community Council has delegated authority to make a final decision, provided that it is not amended so that it varies with City policy or by-laws.

Transportation Services is requesting approval to install an accessible loading zone on the east side of Dowling Avenue, south of King Street West. The loading zone will operate between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., daily, to provide curb side access for Wheel-Trans. This designation will not eliminate any overnight permit parking spaces.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Enact an "Accessible Loading Zone" on the east side of Dowling Avenue, operating from 8:00 a.m to 10:00 p.m., daily, between a point 97.5 metres south of King Street West and a point 11.0 metres further south.

Financial Impact

All costs associated with the necessary signage installation are included within the Transportation Services 2016 Interim Operating Budget.
ISSUE BACKGROUND
Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District, was requested to investigate an on-street accessible loading zone on the east side of Dowling Avenue, south of King Street West, to facilitate pick-up/drop-off activities by Wheel-Trans.

COMMENTS
Dowling Avenue, south of King Street West, is a local road with a posted speed limit of 40 km/h. It operates with two-way traffic on a pavement width of about 10.4 metres. Overnight permit parking operates on the east side of Dowling Avenue, between the hours of 12:01 a.m. to 7:00 a.m., daily. Parking is otherwise permitted for a maximum period of three hours. Parking is prohibited at anytime on the west side of Dowling Avenue. Heavy trucks are prohibited at all times on Dowling Avenue and there is no TTC service provided.

Transportation Services has been advised that Wheel-Trans vehicles experience difficulty accessing space at the curb on this street due to the presence of parked vehicles. When curb-side access is blocked by parked vehicles, the Wheel-Trans vehicle must “double park”, impeding the flow of traffic.

A resident with accessible requirements on the street requires Wheel-Trans service between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., daily. To facilitate curb-side access, an on-street accessible loading zone could be designated during that time period. A 2.1 metre wide grassed boulevard separates the proposed loading zone from the sidewalk on the east side of Dowling Avenue. Accordingly, a sidewalk extension and depressed curb will also be installed to facilitate access to/from the proposed accessible loading zone.

The zone could also be used by any vehicle displaying a valid “Accessible Parking Permit” while actively engaged in picking-up or dropping-off a person with accessible requirements. The accessible loading zone would eliminate two parking spaces. However, outside of the 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., daily time period, the zone could be used for parking, including overnight parking by residents with valid parking permits.
Councillor Gord Perks has been advised of the recommendation of this staff report.

**CONTACT**

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**SIGNATURE**

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**LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**


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