



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Road Alteration: Dundas Street East and River Street (Non-Delegated)

Date:	May 26, 2016
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Public Realm Section, Transportation Services
Wards:	Ward 28 – Toronto Centre-Rosedale
Reference Number:	p:\2016\ClusterB\tra\pr\te160011pr

SUMMARY

Transportation Services is requesting authority to alter the roadway and to remove the right-turn channel at the southeast corner of Dundas Street East and River Street. The proposed road alterations will improve pedestrian and bicycle safety, improve pedestrian accessibility and beautify the corner by removing the right-turn channel. This work will be completed in 2016 as part of the River Street road reconstruction project.

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services, Public Realm Section recommends:

1. City Council approve the alteration of the southeast corner of the intersection of Dundas Street East and River Street by removing the eastbound right-turn channel, generally as shown in the Attachment 1.

Financial Impact

This proposal has been incorporated into the larger road reconstruction plan and funding is included in the 2016-2025 Capital Budget and Capital Plan for Transportation Services.

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

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The right-turn channel lane at the southeast corner of Dundas Street East and River Street has been previously identified as a safety concern, but the need for a utility pole relocation and grading requirements meant that they could not be easily dealt with as a stand-alone project. The adoption of new standards for corner radii and the inclusion of enhanced bicycle infrastructure permitted the design to be adjusted to avoid many of these major costs, and to integrate this improvement cost effectively as part of the overall River Street reconstruction.

River Street, south of Dundas Street East consists of one-travel lane in each direction, a left-turn lane for westbound vehicles, painted bike lanes, and a curbside parking lane on the east side which transitions into a right-turn channel for eastbound traffic. The sidewalks on the east side meet minimum accessibility requirements.

COMMENTS

River Street is the eastern boundary of the Regent Park redevelopment which will triple the existing population and bring higher density development to the corner of Dundas Street East and River Street. There is also significant redevelopment occurring in the areas further east and, as a result, there is more pedestrian and cycling activity.

Currently, pedestrians are able to use the signals at Dundas Street East and River Street to safely cross the north and west legs of the intersection. However, pedestrians travelling the south or east legs of the intersection must also negotiate a right-turn channel which is not protected. When right-turning vehicles concentrate on finding a gap in eastbound traffic, they may be unaware of pedestrians crossing the channel. In addition, right-turn channels are not navigable for pedestrians with visual impairments. As a result, it is the City's policy to remove right-turn channels to promote pedestrian safety and accessibility, wherever is possible.

In removing the right-turn channel, there is also an opportunity to create wider sidewalks, secure more storage space for pedestrians at the intersection, and to beautify the boulevard with the addition of plantings and permeable surfaces.

Councillor Pam McConnell has been advised of the recommendations of this staff report.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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Transportation Services

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Dundas and River – Proposed Road Alteration Plan

Dundas and River – Proposed Road Alteration Plan

