



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

Left-turn Prohibitions – Carlaw Avenue and Eastern Avenue

Date:	September 23, 2016
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Acting Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District
Wards:	Toronto-Danforth, Ward 30
Reference Number:	Ts2016188te.top.doc

SUMMARY

As the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates a transit service on Carlaw Avenue and Eastern Avenue, City Council approval of this report is required.

Transportation Services is requesting approval to implement northbound and southbound left turn prohibitions at the intersection of Carlaw Avenue and Eastern Avenue, during the morning and afternoon peak periods. The implementation of the turn prohibitions at this intersection will improve the flow of traffic on Carlaw Avenue and eliminate the potential for conflicts between left-turning motorists and opposing traffic. These prohibitions will inconvenience motorists and may result in increased traffic volumes at adjacent intersections.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District recommends that:

1. City Council prohibit northbound left turns, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, at the intersection of Carlaw Avenue and Eastern Avenue, TTC buses excepted.
2. City Council prohibit southbound left turns, from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., Monday to Friday, at the intersection of Carlaw Avenue and Eastern Avenue, TTC buses excepted.

Financial Impact

All costs associated with the installation of the turn restrictions signage is included within the Transportation Services 2016 Operating Budget.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The intersection of Carlaw Avenue and Eastern Avenue was identified in early 2016 by the City of Toronto as one of the ten worst intersections for traffic congestion.

Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District was requested to undertake a review of this intersection to identify any measures which would enhance traffic flow.

COMMENTS

The intersection of Carlaw Avenue and Eastern Avenue is controlled by traffic signals. There are currently no turn prohibitions in effect at this intersection.

North of Eastern Avenue, Carlaw Avenue is classified as a minor arterial road and has a posted speed limit of 40 km/h. South of Eastern Avenue, Carlaw Avenue is classified as a collector road and has a regulatory speed limit of 50 km/h. At the intersection with Eastern Avenue, there are shared left-turn through and right-turn through lanes provided for northbound and southbound motorists. TTC service on Carlaw Avenue is provided by the '72A Pape' bus, the '72B Pape' bus and the '325 Don Mills night bus. Both the '72A Pape' bus and '325 Don Mill' night bus travel westbound on Eastern Avenue and make a right turn to travel northbound on Carlaw Avenue.

Eastern Avenue is classified as a minor arterial, east of Carlaw Avenue, and is classified as a major arterial, west of Eastern Avenue. Eastern Avenue has a regulatory speed limit of 50 km/h on both approaches to Carlaw Avenue. In the eastbound and westbound directions, there are exclusive left-turn and shared right-turn through lanes provided for eastbound and westbound motorists. Additionally, bicycle lanes are provided on Eastern Avenue. TTC service on Eastern Avenue is provided by the '143 Downtown/ Beach' bus.

A traffic count was undertaken on April 18, 2016 at the intersection of Carlaw Avenue and Eastern Avenue during the busiest eight-hour period of the day. Over this time period, there were about 720 and 380 northbound and southbound left-turns, respectively. During the two-hour morning peak period, about 90 southbound motorists make left-turns and 770 southbound motorists travel straight-through. During the two-hour afternoon peak period, about 180 northbound motorists make left-turns and 780 southbound motorists travel straight-through.

Field observations of north-south left-turning movements during the peak periods indicated that left-turning motorists disrupted the flow of north-south traffic through the intersection, resulting in queuing and delays for straight-through motorists.

Collision statistics provided by the Toronto Police Service for the five-year period ending December 31, 2015 indicated that 59 collisions occurred at the intersection of Carlaw Avenue and Eastern Avenue. Of these 59 collisions, eight involved a northbound or southbound left-turning motorist. Further review did not disclose a pattern as to the time of day/day of week these collision occurred.

In view of the impacts caused to through traffic flow at Carlaw Avenue and Eastern Avenue, Transportation Services recommends implementing northbound left-turn prohibitions from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday and southbound left-turn prohibitions from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., Monday to Friday.

The TTC has been consulted and advise the proposed prohibitions will not negatively impact their services at this intersection. The TTC have requested that the turn prohibitions exempt their buses. Although these turns are not a part of scheduled service, these movement may need to be made during service disruptions.

These prohibitions will inconvenience motorists wanting to turn left from Carlaw Avenue onto Eastern Avenue, as they will be required to take an alternate route. The most likely alternate route for displaced northbound motorists would be at Queen Street East and Carlaw Avenue, then use Logan Avenue to access Eastern Avenue. Southbound motorists could turn left at Lakeshore Boulevard East and use Leslie Street to access Eastern Avenue. As a result, these prohibitions would potentially increase left-turn volumes at adjacent intersections and result in similar operational concerns.

Councillor Paula Fletcher has been advised of the recommendations of this staff report.

CONTACT

Ann S. Khan, P. Eng.
Manager, Traffic Operations
Toronto and East York District
Transportation Services
Telephone: (416) 397-5021
Fax: (416) 392-1920
E-mail: akhan5@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Dave Twaddle, C.E.T.
Acting Director, Transportation Services
Toronto and East York District

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

1. Drawing No. 421G-2267, dated September 2016

P:\2016\Cluster B\Tra\Toronto and East York\Top\ts2016188te.top.doc - mb