

Road Alteration – Steeles Avenue East at Don Mills Road and Edgar Woods Road

Date: August 22, 2017

To: North York Community Council

From: Senior Strategic Director, Capital Programs

Wards: Ward 24 - Willowdale

SUMMARY

Transportation Services is requesting approval, on behalf of the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC), to alter Steeles Avenue East at Edgar Woods Road and Don Mills Road in order to provide an eastbound 'transit-only' lane. Doing so will allow TTC vehicles to bypass general traffic in this area, improving service reliability. This change is recommended for approval as a result of evaluation according to established criteria for queue-jump lane requests.

This lane can be accommodated by widening the south side of Steeles Avenue by up to 3.3 metres (m), reducing existing lane widths, and extending existing turn lanes.

These modifications will not result in the loss of any travel lanes, as the current two eastbound and two westbound lanes will be maintained.

As TTC operates bus service on both Steeles Avenue East and Don Mills Road, City Council approval of this report is required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Senior Strategic Director, Capital Program recommends that:

1. City Council approve the alteration of the intersections of Steeles Avenue East at Edgar Woods Road and Don Mills Road, providing an eastbound 'transit-only' lane, generally as shown in Attachment 1.
2. City Council designate the newly created eastbound lane at Steeles Avenue East and Edgar Woods Road as right-turn only, with an exception provided for TTC vehicles.

3. City Council designate the eastbound curb lane at Steeles Avenue East and Don Mills Road as right-turn only, with an exception provided for TTC vehicles.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

All costs associated with the alteration of Steeles Avenue East at Edgar Woods Road and Don Mills Road will be the responsibility of the TTC.

DECISION HISTORY

This report addresses a new initiative.

COMMENTS

Queue Jump Lanes

Transportation Services and the TTC are undertaking a review of locations where it is operationally feasible to provide bus queue jump lanes that also serve as extended right-turn lanes, and where the benefits in terms of travel time savings to transit vehicles are seen to outweigh the impacts to other road users,. The provision of these lanes, where appropriate, allow TTC vehicles to bypass general traffic at intersections and other locations, improving service reliability. The intersection of Lawrence Avenue West and Dufferin Street was identified as one such location.

Existing Conditions

Both Steeles Avenue East and Don Mills Road are arterial roads, with two through lanes in all directions approaching the intersection. Dedicated left and right turn lanes are provided on all approaches, with the exception of southbound on Don Mills Road which operates with a shared through/right-turn curb lane.

Edgar Woods Road is a local road, which forms a T-intersection approximately 170m to the west of Don Mills Road. There is a westbound TTC stop on the north side of the intersection, which operates from a dedicated lay-by. There is a westbound centre turn lane.

TTC vehicles travelling eastbound on Steeles Avenue East currently service a near-side stop at Edgar Woods Road from a mixed traffic curb lane. TTC Vehicles then proceed in the curb lane, before transitioning into the existing right-turn lane to service a near-side stop at Don Mills Road.

Proposed Conditions

Widening the south side of Steeles Avenue East by up to 3.3m and reducing lane widths generally to 3.2m will provide sufficient room to extend the existing eastbound right-turn lane at Don Mills Road back to the intersection at Edgar Woods Road. The existing right-turn lane at Don Mills Road will be designated for right-turns only, with a through movement exception provided for TTC vehicles.

In addition, a new bus bay will be created on the east side of Don Mills Road in order to accommodate articulated buses.

At Edgar Woods Road, a new eastbound right-turn lane is proposed. This turn lane will be designated for right-turns only, with a through movement exception provided for TTC vehicles.

The proposed alterations are shown in Attachment 1.

Providing the combination of the new right-turn lane at Edgar Woods Road (with TTC exemption), extending the existing right-turn lane from Don Mills Road, and providing a new bus bay on the east side of Don Mills will provide a new continuous eastbound lane throughout the area that will allow TTC vehicles to bypass general traffic, improving service reliability. Pedestrian crossing distances at the intersections will be unaffected by the changes.

The other existing lanes will shift southward into the newly widened space in order to accommodate the new lane. As all current travel lanes are to be maintained, no negative impacts to vehicular traffic are anticipated. Some vehicular traffic improvements may be realized as servicing of TTC passengers at the nearside stop at Edgar Woods Road will now occur out of the through lanes.

The local councillor has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

CONTACT

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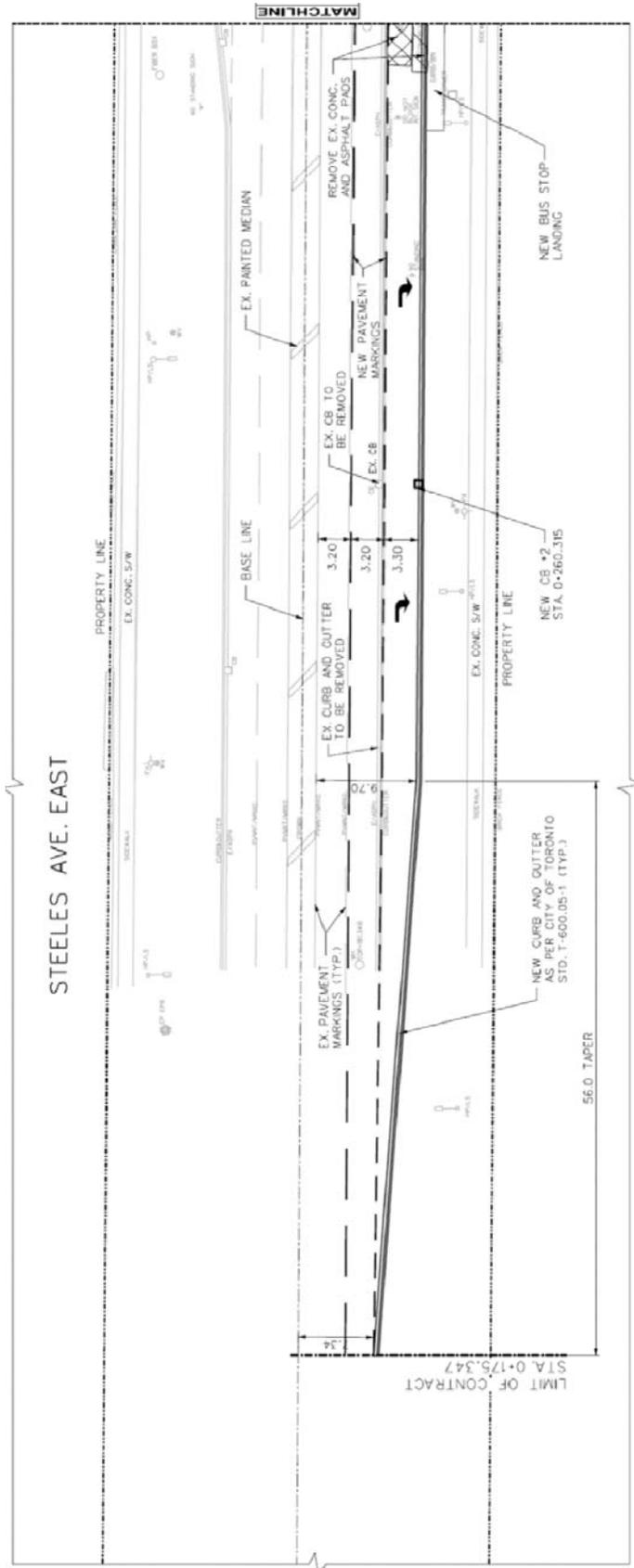
SIGNATURE



Ashley Curtis
Senior Strategic Director, Capital Programs

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Proposed Road Alterations - Steeles Avenue East at Don Mills Road and Edgar Woods Road



STEELES AVE. EAST

PARTIAL PLAN
ROAD WIDENING

4
C030

