

## Road Alteration - Charles Street

**Date:** March 29, 2017  
**To:** Toronto East York Community Council  
**From:** Director, Public Realm Section, Transportation Services  
Acting Director, Toronto & East York District, Transportation Services  
**Wards:** Ward 27 - Toronto Centre-Rosedale

### **SUMMARY**

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Transportation Services is requesting City Council approval to modify the section of Charles Street between Church Street and Yonge Street. The proposed alteration is related to the redevelopments east of 42 Charles Street and extends to the north-west corner of Church Street. The proposed changes are part of a larger vision which will be implemented incrementally in conjunction with adjacent developments. This streetscape improvement project will enhance the safety and improve operations for all road users. The proposed work includes a widening of the north sidewalk and the installation of a curb extension to reduce pedestrian crossing distances at intersections. These improvements will also provide space for streetscape enhancements, including planting areas, seating and space for street furniture elements.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The Directors of the Public Realm Section and the Toronto & East York District, Transportation Services recommend that:

1. City Council approve the alteration of the north curb line of Charles Street, generally as shown in Attachment - Drawing No. TS-PR 2017-002 - Charles Street - West of Church Street - Proposed Road Alteration Plan.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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All proposed capital improvements including widening the sidewalk, street tree installations, planters and seat walls and intersection reconstruction will be funded either directly by the developers of the adjacent properties or through Section 37 contributions.

The proposed alterations, as described in this report, would have no net impact to the number of on-street paid parking spaces along Charles Street and, therefore, no financial impact to the revenue generated by the on-street paid parking spaces. There is an opportunity to increase the hours of operation for paid parking, which would generate additional revenue. The proposed parking regulations will be submitted at a later date.

Minor operational improvements, e.g. signs and markings, will be funded through the Transportation Services Division annual operating budget.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

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The area around Charles and Hayden Streets between Yonge and Church Streets has been under significant development pressure for many years. In recognition of the impact of the new developments and resulting population growth, one of the key issues raised by the community is the need to improve the pedestrian environment. Since 2015, City Planning and Transportation Services have been working with the community, developers and a number of other City divisions to develop a vision for the transformation of these streets. Improvements to the boulevard areas abutting redevelopment projects will be completed by each developer as part of their project.

In response to the community concern, the City and local Councillor also secured Section 37 contributions from Cressford Developments, the developer of 42-48 and 50-60 Charles Street for streetscape improvements for the entire block (Yonge Street to Church Street) on both Charles Street and Hayden Street. This funding will be used to improve the remaining frontages not currently under redevelopment.

## **COMMENTS**

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Based on the principles set out in the recently adopted Complete Street Guidelines, City Planning and Transportation Services staff have developed a plan which will:

- widen the sidewalk and pedestrian clearway on the north side of Charles Street, leaving an edge zone along the curb for street furniture elements including bike rings;
- improve pedestrian safety at the intersections of Charles Street with both Church Street and Yonge Street by right sizing the intersections and incorporating curb extensions to reduce pedestrian crossing distances and times;
- increase and improve the tree canopy by providing new opportunities for street trees within the boulevard and in planning beds with seat walls and additional green space within the extended curb areas; and
- maintain a significant number of existing on-street parking spaces for short-term parking, loading and TTC Wheel-Trans loading spaces.

The phasing of the streetscape improvements to be undertaken as part of the abutting development projects is dependent on the timing of those developments. Construction of the streetscape in front of 42-48 Charles Street is scheduled to start later this year. The development projects to the east (50-60 and 68-70 Charles Street) are expected to be completed by 2019. The Yonge Street intersection improvements will be constructed after the completion of the Yonge Street EA.

As redevelopment projects proceed, Transportation Services Division staff will submit separate reports in regard to releasing the required Section 37 funds to construct the related alterations and amend the necessary bylaws as required (e.g. parking restrictions).

Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam has been advised of the recommendations of this staff report.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Elyse Parker, Director  
Public Realm Section  
Transportation Services

Dave Twaddle, Acting Director  
Toronto & East York District  
Transportation Services

# ATTACHMENTS

Drawing No. TS-PR 2017-002 - Charles Street - West of Church Street - Proposed Road Alteration Plan

