Heavy Truck Prohibition - Cowbell Lane

Date: May 2, 2017
To: Toronto and East York Community Council
From: Acting Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District
Wards: Ward 22, St. Paul's

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 implement a heavy truck prohibition on Cowbell Lane, between Eglinton Avenue East and Soudan Avenue. The introduction of this regulation is intended to reduce the heavy truck usage of Cowbell Lane.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Acting Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District recommends that:

1. Toronto and East York Community Council approve the prohibition of heavy trucks on Cowbell Lane, between Eglinton Avenue East and Soudan Avenue.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

All costs associated with the necessary signage installation are included within the Transportation Services 2017 Operating Budget.

DECISION HISTORY

This report addresses a new initiative.
At the request of Councillor Josh Matlow, Transportation Services reviewed the feasibility of enacting a heavy truck prohibition on Cowbell Lane to reduce the usage of this street by heavy trucks.

Cowbell Lane, between Eglinton Avenue East and Soudan Avenue, is a local roadway that operates two-way traffic. It has a pavement width of about 6 metres and a regulatory speed limit of 50 km/h. Northbound left-turns from Cowbell Lane are prohibited at Eglinton Avenue East, between the hours of 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. All traffic movements are permitted at the intersection of Cowbell Lane and Soudan Avenue.

Cowbell Lane has been designated as a speed control zone and there are speed bumps in place with an advisory speed limit of 10 km/h for trucks and 15 km/h for cars. There is no TTC service provided on Cowbell Lane. This lane fronts accesses to commercial and residential buildings.

Residents of Cowbell Lane have indicated significant numbers of heavy trucks use this roadway as a cut-through to by-pass the east-west left-turn prohibitions on Eglinton Avenue East/West at Yonge Street that operate at all times. Eastbound and westbound heavy trucks on Eglinton Avenue East may turn southbound onto Cowbell Lane, then travel westbound on Soudan Avenue to travel either northbound or southbound on Yonge Street. As a result, residents indicated that the noise produced by these trucks throughout the evening and overnight periods are disruptive and interferes with sleep.

Under a "No Heavy Trucks" restriction, heavy vehicles may use a street prohibited for their use if the operator of the vehicle has a specific destination on the street to make a pick-up/delivery or has no alternative route but to use that street to access another street to make a pick-up/delivery. As such, the proposed introduction of a "No Heavy Trucks" restriction on the subject section of Cowbell Lane may lead to a reduction in the number of heavy trucks that are using the roadway as a cut-through, without negatively impacting the heavy truck operators that have a legitimate reason to be using the roadway.
Councillor Josh Matlow has been advised of the recommendation of this staff report.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. Drawing No. 421G-2498, dated May 2017

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