

Mid-Block Pedestrian Traffic Control Signal - Dupont Street, between Bathurst Street and Palmerston Avenue

Date: August 17, 2017
To: Toronto and East York Community Council
From: Acting Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District
Wards: Ward 20, Trinity-Spadina

SUMMARY

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

Transportation Services has undertaken an operational review and safety audit of the segment of Dupont Street, between Bathurst Street and Palmerston Avenue. The safety audit revealed that this segment of Dupont Street is generally operating safely and the justifications for the installation of a pedestrian crossover or a mid-block traffic control signal are not satisfied.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council deny the installation of a mid-block pedestrian traffic control signal on Dupont Street, between Bathurst Street and Palmerston Avenue.
2. City Council deny the installation of a pedestrian crossover on Dupont Street, between Bathurst Street and Palmerston Avenue.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Adopting the above-noted recommendation carries no financial impact.

DECISION HISTORY

Toronto and East York Community Council, at its meeting on April 5, 2016, deferred the consideration of traffic control signals at the intersection of Dupont Street and Palmerston Avenue, as local residences did not support the decision of installing traffic control signals at this location. The Item TE15.53 has since been deferred indefinitely, as a decision was not reached. The Toronto and East York Community Council decision can be found at:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.TE21.46>

COMMENTS

Dupont Street, between Bathurst Street and Palmerston Avenue is a major arterial roadway with two lanes in each direction. It has a posted speed limit of 40 km/h and a daily two-way traffic volume of about 25,000 vehicles. TTC service on Dupont Street is provided by the '26 Dupont' bus. There is an east transit stop on Dupont Street, between Bathurst Street and Palmerston Avenue. The existing land use in this section of Dupont Street is generally mixed-use. Mid-block pedestrian generators include the TTC stop, restaurants, commercial stores and local residents.

Dupont Street, between Bathurst Street and Palmerston Avenue, is about 190 metres in length and intersects with the following local streets (east to west):

- Hammond Place (east leg)
- Col. David Shank Lane

Traffic control signals on this section of Dupont Street are located about 105 metres to the east at Bathurst Street and about 225 metres to the west at Hammond Place (west leg) from the proposed mid-block pedestrian traffic control signal.

In 2016, Transportation Services was requested by Councillor Joe Cressy to undertake traffic studies at the intersection of Dupont Street and Palmerston Avenue, to consider the installation of traffic control signals. On April 5, 2016, Transportation Services reported to Toronto and East York Community Council denying the installation of traffic control signals at this intersection. A safety audit revealed that the intersection is generally operating safely and the justifications for the installation of traffic control signals were not satisfied. In addition, local residences do not support or agree with the installation of traffic control signals at the intersection of Dupont Street and Palmerston Avenue.

In an attempt to find an alternate location that would provide pedestrians with a controlled crossing, Councillor Joe Cressy requested that Transportation Services review the feasibility of installing a Pedestrian Crossover (PXO) or Mid-block Pedestrian Traffic Control Signal on Dupont Street, between Bathurst Street and Palmerston Avenue.

Technical Review

On July 6, 2017 pedestrian volume and delay surveys were conducted over a peak eight-hour period on Dupont Street, between Bathurst Street and Palmerston Avenue fronting 500 Dupont Street. Based on the data collected, the pedestrian crossover warrant criteria is satisfied as follows:

Pedestrian Volume: 18% (42 pedestrian crossings recorded over an 8-hour period).

Pedestrian Delay: 12% (9 pedestrian crossings recorded that were delayed more than 10 seconds).

To meet the technical requirements for the installation of a PXO, both of the warrants must be 100 percent satisfied. Based on the above results, the installation of a Pedestrian Crossover (PXO) on Dupont Street, between Bathurst Street and Palmerston Avenue is not warranted at this time.

A review to assess any deficiencies in the operational and physical suitability of a potential PXO at this location was carried out. The results of the review indicated that this location is unsuitable for a pedestrian crossover. There are several driveways located on this section of Dupont Street which will result in operational safety concerns between turning traffic and pedestrian crossings. In addition, based on the lack of storage space available on Dupont Street, between Bathurst Street and the proposed location of the PXO, and the traffic volumes anticipated within this block, Transportation Services does not recommend the installation of a PXO at this location.

The investigation also revealed that 4 collisions were reported over the preceding 3-year period ending December 31, 2016 on Dupont Street, between Bathurst Street and Palmerston Avenue. None of these collisions involved a pedestrian and/or cyclist.

Given that the minimum technical warrants for a pedestrian crossover have not been satisfied, a mid-block traffic control signal is also not technically justified on this section of Dupont Street. Based on the review, Transportation Services does not recommend the installation of a pedestrian crossover or a mid-block pedestrian traffic control signal on Dupont Street, between Bathurst Street and Palmerston Avenue.

Transportation Services has consulted with Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) and Cycling Infrastructure and Program regarding the potential installation of a pedestrian crossover or a mid-block pedestrian traffic control signal on Dupont Street, between Bathurst Street and Palmerston Avenue. Comments have been received from Toronto Transit Commission (TTC). However, no comments have been received from Cycling Program and Infrastructure.

Councillor Joe Cressy has been advised of the recommendations of this staff report.

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

1. Drawing No. 421G-2363, dated July 2017
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