

## **Pedestrian Crossings - Bathurst Street and Neptune Drive**

**Date:** May 25, 2018

**To:** North York Community Council

**From:** Acting Director, Transportation Services, North York District

**Wards:** Wards 15 and 16 - Eglinton-Lawrence

### **SUMMARY**

---

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

Transportation Services is requesting City Council to rescind the existing pedestrian crossing prohibition across Bathurst Street, north of Neptune Drive. The proposed changes will enhance the pedestrian environment by providing additional crossing opportunities, allow for the installation of audible pedestrian signals and a leading pedestrian interval and will have minimal impacts on traffic.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

---

The Acting Director, Transportation Services, North York District recommends that:

1. City Council rescind the existing prohibited pedestrian crossing on Bathurst Street, between the southerly curb line of Neptune Drive and a point 30.5 metres north of the north curb line of Neptune Drive.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

---

The rescission of the pedestrian crossing prohibition at Bathurst Street and Neptune Drive, as well as the associated signal timing modifications and the installation of a pedestrian crossing, would be subject to the availability of funds in Transportation Services 2018 Capital Budget, and competing priorities.

## DECISION HISTORY

---

At its meeting on January 31, February 1 and 2, 2006, City Council approved the prohibition of pedestrian crossings across Bathurst Street, north of Neptune Drive. The Council decision can be found at:

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2006/agendas/committees/ny/ny060117/it021.pdf>

## COMMENTS

---

Transportation Services is proposing the installation of audible pedestrian signals and signal timing enhancements at the intersection of Bathurst Street and Neptune Drive. In order for these installations to meet accessibility standards, it is necessary for pedestrian crossings on all intersection legs to be provided.

The "T" intersection of Bathurst Street and Neptune Drive is controlled by traffic signals. Currently, pedestrian crossings are provided on the south and west legs of this intersection. Pedestrian crossings on the north intersection leg are prohibited. This prohibition was formally by-lawed in 2006, although the signage had been in place prior to the by-law being enacted. Over the busiest eight-hour period of a typical weekday, approximately 550 and 450 pedestrians cross the south and west legs of this intersection, respectively.

Bathurst Street is a four lane, major arterial street with a daily two-way traffic volume of approximately 37,000 vehicles. It has a pavement width of approximately 14 metres and a regulatory speed limit of 50 km/h. TTC service is provided by the 7 and 307 Bathurst bus routes. Transit stops are located on the northwest corner of Bathurst Street and Neptune Drive and on the southeast corner of Bathurst Street and Bannockburn Avenue.

Neptune Drive is a collector street that operates one-way in the eastbound direction, intersecting the west side of Bathurst Street in a 'T' type intersection. It has a daily one-way traffic volume of approximately 4,000 vehicles and provides two eastbound lanes of traffic, which terminate as exclusive left-turn and right-turn lanes at Bathurst Street. It has a pavement width of approximately 8.5 metres and a posted speed limit of 40 km/h. Heavy vehicles are prohibited at all times and TTC service on Neptune Drive is provided by the 109 Ranee bus route.

Bannockburn Avenue is a local street that operates with two-way traffic. It intersects the east side of Bathurst Street in a 'T' type, stop controlled intersection, approximately 12 metres south of Neptune Drive. It is not included in the traffic control signals at Bathurst Street and Neptune Drive. It has a pavement width of approximately 8.5 metres. Bannockburn Avenue has a maximum speed limit of 40 km/h that was recently approved at North York Community Council (Item NY26.51) and the signage installation is pending. There is no TTC service provided on Bannockburn Avenue.

The land use in the area surrounding Bathurst Street and Neptune Drive generally consists of high-rise residential buildings. Other notable pedestrian generators in this area include:

- Baycrest Hospital and Health Sciences;
- Bais Chomesh High School;
- Associated Hebrew School; and
- several retirement homes.

The north leg crossing prohibition eliminates a potential source of conflicts between crossing pedestrians and turning motorists. It also allows the eastbound left-turn movement to flow freely. However, it eliminates a crossing opportunity for pedestrians, and potentially requires they walk further to reach their destination, including the TTC stop on the northwest corner. The City of Toronto's current practice at signalized intersections is to provide pedestrian crossings wherever feasible, which is consistent with provincial accessibility requirements.

Due to the adjacent land uses, many of the pedestrians crossing at this intersection are vulnerable types, including many seniors and school age children. The presence of vulnerable pedestrians was confirmed by Transportation Services during observations undertaken at this intersection on December 20, 2017 and January 10-11, 2018. As a result of staff's observations, the signal timings at Bathurst Street and Neptune Drive were modified to provide five additional seconds of "Walk" time for pedestrians to cross Bathurst Street in all time periods. These changes were implemented on March 15, 2018.

Additionally, staff have also considered other pedestrian enhancements at this intersection, including the installation of a leading pedestrian interval (LPI). An LPI operates by displaying the "Walk" phase for east-west pedestrians before the green phase for eastbound motorists, giving pedestrians a head-start over turning motorists. This type of phasing is beneficial to pedestrians, as motorists are more likely to yield the right-of-way to pedestrians that are already crossing the street, as opposed to pedestrians that are about to begin their crossing. For the LPI phase to operate optimally, it is necessary for audible pedestrian signals to be in place at the signalized intersection.

In order for audible pedestrian signals to be installed at this intersection to assist visually-impaired pedestrians, a full complement of pedestrian crossings is required. If audible pedestrian signals were to be installed and the north leg pedestrian crossing prohibition were maintained, it could create a dangerous situation for a pedestrian that could not see the crossing prohibition signs. A north leg pedestrian could potentially begin crossing east-west at this intersection upon hearing the audible signals for the south leg crossing.

Therefore, the installation of audible pedestrian signals and a leading pedestrian interval at Bathurst Street and Neptune Drive, coincident with the rescission of the north leg pedestrian crossing prohibition, is recommended to improve conditions for all

pedestrians using this intersection. This installation will result in the following enhancements to the north intersection leg:

- east-west pedestrian crossing lines with 'zebra' markings;
- pedestrian signals heads on both sides of Bathurst Street; and
- depressed curbs and tactile walking surface indicators for the east-west crossing.

The above-noted pedestrian enhancements will have minimal impacts on traffic and will be installed in late 2018 or in 2019. The TTC has been advised of the recommendations in this report and have not indicated any comments.

The Ward Councillors are aware of the recommendations of this staff report.

## **CONTACT**

---

Dan Clement, Acting Manager, Traffic Operations, Transportation Services Division,  
North York District, Tel: 416-395-7463, Fax: 416-395-7544, Email:  
Dan.Clement@Toronto.ca

## **SIGNATURE**

---

Peter K. Hillier  
Acting Director

## **ATTACHMENTS**

---

Attachment 1: Map - Pedestrian Crossings - Bathurst Street and Neptune Drive