



REPORT FOR ACTION

Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit: Traffic Regulation Amendments

Date: March 19, 2019

To: Infrastructure and Environment Committee

From: General Manager, Transportation Services

Wards: Wards 8 and 12

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for traffic amendments adjacent to the Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit (ECLRT) Cedarvale Station. The report seeks Council authority to temporarily restrict northbound left-turn movements, during the morning and afternoon peak period, at the intersection of Westover Hill Road and Eglinton Avenue West. The proposed temporary turn restriction addresses concerns from area residents with respect to arterial traffic infiltration on Westover Hill Road.

Additionally, the report seeks Council authority to temporarily restrict eastbound U-turn movements on Eglinton Avenue West between Flanders Road and Westover Hill Road. The proposed restriction will help deter unsafe driver behaviour and enhance traffic safety for all road users.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council prohibit northbound left-turns from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, Bicycles Excepted, at the intersection of Westover Hill Road and Eglinton Avenue West, from April 18, 2019 to September 30, 2021.
2. City Council prohibit eastbound U-turn movements on Eglinton Avenue West, between Flanders Road and Westover Hill Road, from April 18, 2019 to September 30, 2021.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact to the City of Toronto associated with the recommendations in this report. Metrolinx's contractor, Crosslinx Transit Solutions, will be responsible for all costs related to the installation of the approved signage.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of November 30, December 1, 2, 4 and 7, 2009, City Council adopted item CC42.7 Eglinton LRT Transit Project Assessment. The Council decision can be found at:

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/cc/bgrd/backgroundfile-25444.pdf>

At its meeting of March 31, 2016, City Council adopted item PW11.5 entitled Metrolinx LRT Projects – Delegation to the General Manager, Transportation Services, to Approve Road Closures Up To And Including 365 Consecutive Days for the Metrolinx Crosstown LRT. This authorized the General Manager, Transportation Services, to temporarily close any highway or part of a highway, until January 1, 2021, for a period up to and including 365 consecutive days as required for the purposes of construction of the Metrolinx Eglinton Crosstown LRT project. The authorization did not extend to the F. G. Gardiner Expressway, the Don Valley Parkway, the W. R. Allen Road, Black Creek Drive or Highway 27. As part of the action, it was noted that Metrolinx has developed and implemented a comprehensive communications program utilizing a variety of meeting techniques to keep City Councillors and their staff apprised of plans and developments related to the project. From this plan, the proposals outlined in this report has been developed. The Council decision can be found at:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.PW11.5>

COMMENTS

On-going construction activities at the Eglinton Crosstown LRT (ECLRT) Forest Hill and Cedarvale Stations and associated road closures on Eglinton Avenue West have resulted in increased traffic congestion and infiltration through the neighbourhood streets.

Westover Hill Road has experienced a significant increase in traffic infiltration since the start of ECLRT construction and implementation of the northbound left-turn restriction at the intersection of Bathurst Street and Eglinton Avenue West. The roadway is currently being used as a cut-through route to Eglinton Avenue West and north on to Allen Road. It should be noted, that turn restrictions in all directions are currently in effect at the intersection of Bathurst Street and Eglinton Avenue West to facilitate construction activities at the ECLRT Forest Hill Station.

Westover Hill Road, between Dewbourne Avenue and Eglinton Avenue West, is a local roadway and operates one-way northbound. Under existing conditions, Westover Hill Road at Eglinton Avenue West is a stop-controlled intersection and northbound left and right-turn movements are permitted at all times. Northbound left-turn movements on Flanders Road, a local roadway located to the west, are prohibited at all times. Northbound left-turn movements on Glen Cedar Road, a collector roadway located to the east, are prohibited during the morning and afternoon peak period.

By way of background, construction grade turn restriction signage was installed on streets leading to Westover Hill Road. However, this resulted in minimal impact on traffic infiltration due to the advisory nature of the signage. Site observations were conducted by Transportation Services staff during the morning and afternoon peak period. Significant vehicle queuing on Westover Hill Road was frequently observed. Residents on Westover Hill Road have expressed concerns regarding difficulty in entering/exiting their driveways during the peak period.

Consequently, a temporary northbound left-turn prohibition during the morning and afternoon peak period is being recommended to enhance traffic operations and safety on this section of Westover Hill Road.

Additionally, the area residents have reported that eastbound vehicles on Eglinton Avenue West commonly make unsafe U-turn movements to access the northbound Allen Road on-ramp. During site observation by Transportation Services staff, a number of eastbound motorists were observed completing a U-turn as a 3-point turn, thus creating an unsafe situation and potential conflict with the westbound through traffic.

Consequently, a temporary eastbound U-turn prohibition is being recommended on Eglinton Avenue West, between Flanders Road and Westover Hill Road, to help deter unsafe U-turn movements and enhance traffic safety for all road users in the area, see Attachments 1 and 2 for maps of the proposed changes.

Councillors Josh Matlow and Mike Colle have been advised of the recommendations of this staff report.

CONTACT

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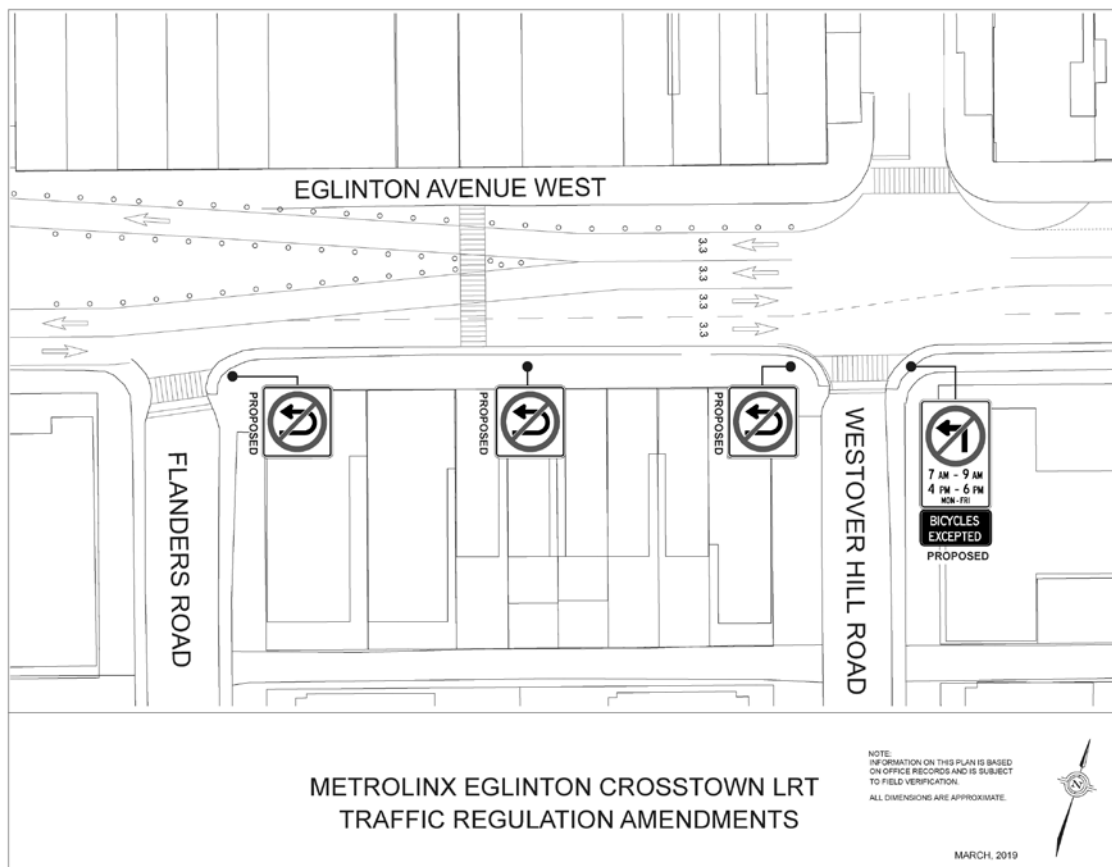
SIGNATURE

Barbara Gray
General Manager, Transportation Services

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1. Eglinton Crosstown LRT Traffic Regulation Amendments - Location Map
Attachment 2. Eglinton Crosstown LRT Traffic Regulation Amendments - Context Map

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