

Westbound U-Turn Prohibition - Sheppard Avenue East at Don Mills Road

Date: September 19, 2019

To: North York Community Council

From: Acting Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 17, Don Valley North

SUMMARY

As the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates bus service on Sheppard Avenue East, City Council approval of this report is required.

Transportation Services is requesting that City Council prohibit westbound U-turn movements at all times on Sheppard Avenue East at Don Mills Road.

The proposed turn prohibition will address congestion concerns between Don Mills Road and the Don Valley Parkway.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Acting Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council prohibit westbound U-turn movements at all times on Sheppard Avenue East at Don Mills Road.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

All costs associated with the U-turn prohibition signage are included within the Transportation Services 2019 Operating Budget.

DECISION HISTORY

This report addresses a new initiative.

COMMENTS

Transportation Services was requested by Councillor Shelley Carroll to investigate westbound delays for traffic turning left onto Don Mills Road from Sheppard Avenue East.

Staff were advised that during the p.m. peak traffic is seen to back up eastwards on Sheppard Avenue East, from the Don Mills Road intersection to the exit ramps from the Don Valley Parkway (DVP).

Sheppard Avenue East is classified as a major arterial roadway. At the eastern leg of the intersection with Don Mills Road it is 28 metres wide with a raised median, a westbound left-turn lane, two westbound through lanes and a westbound shared through/right-turn lane. It has a speed limit of 50 km/h. There are sidewalks on both sides of the street and the TTC operates the 85 Sheppard East bus route on this section of Sheppard Avenue East.

Don Mills Road is classified as a major arterial roadway. At the southern leg of the intersection with Sheppard Avenue East it is 26 metres wide with a raised median and three southbound lanes (the curb lane is a bus priority lane in the a.m. and p.m. peaks). It has a posted speed limit of 60 km/h. There are sidewalks on both sides of the street and the TTC operates the 25 Don Mills bus route on this section of Don Mills Road.

A turning-movement count conducted at the intersection on January 24, 2019 identified a traffic volume of approximately 71,000 in 24 hours entering the intersection. The intersection has traffic control signals with advanced left-turn green on all four legs. The area is primarily comprised of retail commercial and high-rise residential.

Collision statistics provided by the Toronto Police Service for the three-year period ending February 27, 2019 disclosed 207 collisions had occurred in the intersection (of which 4 involved pedestrians and 2 involved cyclists). There is no clear indication that any involved a motorist performing a U-turn.

To assess existing traffic conditions, a westbound left turn delay study was undertaken on June 11, 2019. The data is set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1 - Sheppard Avenue East at Don Mills Road - Westbound Left Turn Delay Results (June 11, 2019)

	07:45 to 09:00	16:00 to 18:00	
Left turning vehicles	892	713	
Clearing on green arrow or green signal	803	605	88%
Clearing on amber/all red	89	108	12%
Delayed one cycle	149	409	35%
Delayed more than one cycle	0	4	Less than 1%
U-turning vehicles	6	11	Averaging once every 15 minutes

The study revealed that eighty-eight percent (88%) of the left-turning traffic do so on a green signal (both advance green and green signal). Thirty-five percent (35%) of the left-turn traffic are delayed one cycle, with the majority able to clear on the first cycle. Compounding the delay are vehicles slowing down in the left turn lane to make U-turns.

Transportation Services can support a westbound U-turn prohibition on Sheppard Avenue East within the intersection with Don Mills Road.

The Ward Councillor supports the recommendation of this staff report.

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Map - U-turn Prohibition Sheppard Avenue East

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