

Removal of Taxi Stand - Portland Street

Date: April 4, 2019

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

From: Director, Transportation Project Design and Management

Wards: Ward 10 - Spadina-Fort York

SUMMARY

Toronto and East York Community Council, at its meeting of October 17, 2017 adopted Item TE27.56 entitled, "Installation/Removal of On-Street Parking Restrictions – Various Streets in Wards 20 and 28" and in so doing authorized taxi stands on Portland Street, Brant Street, Wellington Street, and Widmer Street. This was to accommodate additional taxi stand spaces in the vicinity of the King Street Transit Pilot.

Based on field observations and in consultation with the Toronto Police Service and the Councillor's Office, Transportation Services recommends that the taxi stand that was introduced on Portland Street be removed.

This staff report concerns a matter for which the Community Council has delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision, provided that it is not amended so that it varies with City policy or by-laws.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director, Transportation Project Design & Management recommends that:

1. Toronto and East York Community Council rescind the existing taxi stand for four taxis operating at all times on the east side of Portland Street, between a point 15 metres north of King Street West and a point 24 metres further north.
2. Toronto and East York Community Council rescind the existing No Standing prohibition in effect at all times on the east side of Portland Street, between a point 15 metres north of King Street West and a point 24 metres further north.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact resulting from the adoption of this report.

DECISION HISTORY

City Council on April 16 and 17, 2019 considered the report EX4.2 The Future of King Street: Results of the Transit Pilot:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.EX4.2>

City Council on December 13, 2018 adopted the report CC1.5 Extending the King Street Transit Pilot: <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.CC1.5>

Toronto and East York Community Council on October 17, 2017 adopted, with amendments, the report TE27.56 Installation/Removal of On-Street Parking Restrictions – Various Streets in Wards 20 and 28:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.TE27.56>

City Council on July 4, 5, 6 and 7, 2017 adopted the report EX26.1 Proposed King Street Transit Pilot - Bathurst Street to Jarvis Street with amendments:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.EX26.1>

COMMENTS

Transportation Services staff reviewed the operations of King Street and other nearby streets as part of the monitoring and evaluation program of the King Street Transit Pilot.

The Toronto Police Service has requested to remove the taxi stand on Portland Street because from their observation, this taxi stand is contributing to traffic congestion on Portland Street, and safety concerns associated with a lack of dispersal of patrons from King Street West, particularly during late-nights leading into the weekend when the nightlife becomes more active.

In addition, a one-week curbside activity survey conducted on Portland Street in April and May 2018 indicated that this taxi stand is frequently used for illegal parking by vehicles other than licensed taxicabs and contributes to queues backing up to the intersection at King Street West.

The removal of this taxi stand should not impact the availability of taxi stands in the area. Two other existing taxi stands west of the King Street West and Portland Street intersection are located within walking distance. A new taxi stand is also being considered east of this intersection.

In consultation with the Toronto Police Service and the Councillor's Office, Transportation Services recommends that the taxi stand and standing prohibition be removed at this location. An existing standing prohibition by-law is already enacted on both sides of Portland Street from King Street West to Adelaide Street West.

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SIGNATURE

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