

Accessible Loading Zone - Torrens Avenue

Date: June 6, 2019
To: Toronto and East York Community Council
From: Acting Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services
Wards: Ward 14, Toronto-Danforth

SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter that Community Council has delegated authority to make a final decision, provided that it is not amended so that it varies with City Policy or by-laws.

Transportation Services is requesting approval to designate an on-street accessible loading zone on Torrens Avenue. The establishment of an accessible loading zone will provide unimpeded curb side access to TTC Wheel-Trans service for a local resident.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Toronto and East York Community Council designate an accessible loading zone to operate at all times on the south side of Torrens Avenue, between a point 75.7 metres west of Donlands Avenue and a point 12 metres further west.
2. Toronto and East York Community Council prohibit parking at all times on the south side of Torrens Avenue, between a point 87.7 metres west of Donlands Avenue and a point 10 metres further west.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

All costs associated with the necessary signage installation are included within the Transportation Services 2019 Operating Budget.

DECISION HISTORY

This report addresses a new initiative.

COMMENTS

In response to an inquiry received from an accessible parking permit holder, via 311, Traffic Operations investigated the feasibility of establishing an accessible loading zone on the south side of Torrens Avenue, as Wheel-Trans drivers have had difficulties boarding and discharging passengers at this location due to vehicular impediments.

Torrens Avenue is a local roadway that operates two-way east-west traffic on a pavement width of about 8.5 metres. The daily average two-way traffic volume is about 800 vehicles and the posted speed limit is 30 km/h. Within the subject segment, heavy vehicles are permitted at all times. TTC does not provide service on Torrens Avenue. Currently, the following parking regulations are signed within the subject segment of Torrens Avenue:

North Side

- No parking anytime during the months of May, July, September and November, between Donlands Avenue and a point 233.3 metres east of Pape Avenue; and,
- Permit parking in force from 11:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. during the months of January, February, March, April, June, August, October and December, from Donlands Avenue to the east limit of William Burgess School grounds (a point 233.3 metres east of Pape Avenue).

South Side

- No parking anytime during the months of January, February, March, April, June, August, October and December, between Donlands Avenue and a point 233.3 metres east of Pape Avenue;
- No parking anytime, between a point 80.6 metres west of Donlands Avenue and a point 17.5 metres further west; and
- Permit Parking, from 11:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m., during the months of May, July, September and November, from Donlands Avenue to the east limit of William Burgess School grounds (a point 233.3 metres east of Pape Avenue).

As noted above, permit parking is in effect on Torrens Avenue. The City's Permit Parking unit was consulted and it was noted that Torrens Avenue, between Pape Avenue and Donlands Avenue, has 32 on-street permit parking spaces and 33 permits issued to addresses within the midblock. It was further noted that the permit parking area which Torrens Avenue is located within (8G) has 103 on-street permit parking spaces and 65 permit issued. As the permit parking program guarantees permit holders a spot within the area and not necessarily on their specific street, the City's Permit Parking Unit could not object this proposed installation.

The accessible parking permit holder reported experiencing difficulties boarding and disembarking from the TTC Wheel-Trans vehicle because of parked vehicles. This sometimes results in the resident having to walk on the travelled portion of the roadway to enter the Transit vehicle. In order to ensure that passenger loading activity is conducted safely, a designated accessible loading zone was requested.

The proposed accessible loading zone can be designated on the south side of Torrens Avenue, between a point 75.7 metres west of Donlands Avenue and a point 11 metres further west. This accessible loading zone can be used by any vehicle displaying a valid "Accessible Parking Permit" while actively engaged in the pick-up or drop-off of a person with accessibility requirements and will result in the loss of one on-street permit parking space.

Housekeeping Issues

During the course of this investigation, staff noted an inconsistency between the existing parking regulations and signage in field. This inconsistency will be resolved with the approval of Recommendation No. 2.

Councillor Paula Fletcher has been advised of the recommendations of this staff report.

CONTACT

Shawn Dillon
Manager, Traffic Operations (Area 1)
Traffic Management
Transportation Services
Telephone: (416) 397-5021
Fax: (416) 392-1920
E-mail: Shawn.Dillon@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Roger Browne, M.A.Sc., P.Eng.,
Acting Director,
Traffic Management
Transportation Services

ATTACHMENTS

1. Drawing No. 421G-3402, dated May 2019

