

Accessible Loading Zone - Russett Avenue

Date: September 17, 2019
To: Toronto and East York Community Council
From: Acting Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services
Wards: Ward 9, Davenport

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 recommending designation of an accessible loading zone on the west side of Russett Avenue. The loading zone will provide curb-side access for Wheel-Trans vehicles picking up or dropping off patrons. The loading zone is required from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. Outside these hours, the area would maintain its current designation as an accessible parking space.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Toronto and East York Community Council designate an accessible loading zone on the west side of Russett Avenue, between a point 47 metres south of Wallace Avenue and a point 5.5 metres further south, in effect from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.
2. Toronto and East York Community Council amend the existing accessible parking space in effect at all times on the west side of Russett Avenue, between a point 47 metres south of Wallace Avenue and a point 5.5 metres further south, to be in effect from 7:00 p.m. of one day to 8:00 a.m. of the next following day, Monday to Friday, and at all times, Saturday and Sunday.

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

Transportation Services has investigated the feasibility of establishing an accessible loading zone on the west side of Russett Avenue, between Bloor Street West and Wallace Avenue.

Russett Avenue is a local roadway generally operating one-way southbound with a posted speed limit of 30 km/h. On the west side of Russett Avenue, permit parking is generally in effect from 12:01 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., Monday to Friday, and from 12:01 a.m. and 7:00 a.m., Saturday and Sunday. Parking is allowed for a maximum period of three hours at other times. Parking is prohibited at all times on the east side of the street. There is no TTC service provided on Russett Avenue.

Wheel-Trans buses frequently have difficulty accessing curb space on this section of Russett Avenue as a result of parked cars. When curb-side access is blocked by a parked vehicle, the bus must “double park”, impeding the flow of traffic. Other times, the bus parks in the No Parking area further north on Russett Avenue, causing difficulty for residents with mobility issues, particularly during the winter when snowbanks form and sidewalks can be slippery.

Wheel-Trans service is required from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. To facilitate curb-side access, installation of an accessible loading zone on this section of Russett Avenue is recommended. The designated area may also be used during the operational period by any vehicle displaying a valid accessible parking permit while actively engaged in pick-up or drop-off activities. The accessible parking space designation will be maintained outside of the above times, including overnight parking by residents with valid accessible parking permits. Due to the existing accessible parking space, the changes included in this report will not affect the number of parking spaces for residents without accessible parking permits.

The proposed accessible loading zone will be 5.5 metres long, the same as the existing accessible parking space. Due to the presence of a fire hydrant, parking is prohibited immediately south of the accessible parking space. Therefore, the proposed 5.5 metre accessible loading zone will provide sufficient space for Wheel-Trans vehicles to load and unload passengers.

Councillor Ana Bailão has been advised of the recommendations of this staff report.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Roger Browne, M.A.Sc., P.Eng.,
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ATTACHMENTS

1. Drawing No. 421G-3527, dated September 2019

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