

Lane Designation and Parking Amendments - The Esplanade at Yonge Street

Date: September 30, 2019
To: Toronto and East York Community Council
From: Acting Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services
Wards: Ward 10, Spadina - Fort York
Ward 13, Toronto - Centre

SUMMARY

As the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates a transit service on The Esplanade, City Council approval of this report is required.

In order to improve TTC operations, clearly define lane usage and mitigate any potential vehicular conflicts, Transportation Services is recommending that the southerly westbound lane on The Esplanade at Yonge Street be designated for westbound left turns only, and that the westbound curb lane be designated for straight through and right turns only. In addition, Transportation Services is recommending that standing be prohibited at all times on the north side and parking be prohibited at all times on south side of The Esplanade, between Yonge Street and Scott Street, to deter parking and improve traffic flow.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council designate the southerly westbound lane on The Esplanade, between Yonge Street and a point 30.5 metres east, for westbound left turns only.
2. City Council designate the northerly westbound curb lane on The Esplanade, between Yonge Street and a point 30.5 metres east, for straight through and right turns only.
3. City Council rescind the existing parking prohibition in effect at all times on the north side of The Esplanade, between Yonge Street and Scott Street.

4. City Council prohibit standing at all times on the north side of The Esplanade, between Yonge Street and Scott Street.

5. City Council prohibit parking at all times on the south side of The Esplanade, between Yonge Street and Scott Street.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

All costs associated with the installation of pavement markings are included within the Transportation Services 2019 Operating Budget.

DECISION HISTORY

This report addresses a new initiative.

COMMENTS

In order to reduce delays and improve transit operations, Transportation Services staff received a request from the TTC to clearly define the westbound lane usage at the intersection of The Esplanade at Yonge Street, and amend the parking regulations on The Esplanade, between Yonge Street and Scott Street.

The Esplanade, between Yonge Street and Scott Street is classified as a collector road that operates with two-lanes two-way. It has a pavement width of about 11 metres and a posted speed limit of 40 km/h. Transit service on The Esplanade is provided by the "121 Fort York-Esplanade" bus and the near-side bus stop located at the intersection of The Esplanade and Yonge Street. The following parking regulations are generally in effect on The Esplanade, between Yonge Street and Scott Street:

North side

- Parking is prohibited at all times.

South side

- Unsigned maximum three-hour parking limit.

Under current conditions the westbound lane on The Esplanade at Yonge Street operates as a combined left/through/right turn lane. Parking is also allowed for a maximum period of three hours on the south side of The Esplanade, between Yonge Street and Scott Street. As a result, one westbound lane is usually available for all movements, resulting in delays and negatively impacting TTC operations. This has been verified by recent site observations.

Transportation Services recommends establishing two westbound lanes at this intersection, one that will function as an exclusive left-turn lane and the curb lane will function as a combined straight through/right-turn lane. This will clearly define lane usage, reduce delays for TTC operators destined northbound on Yonge Street, mitigate any potential vehicular conflicts, and to allow for proper enforcement by Toronto Police Service.

To accommodate the proposed lane configuration, discourage parking and improve traffic flow, Transportation Services also recommends amending the parking regulations on The Esplanade, between Yonge Street and Scott Street as follows:

North Side

- prohibit standing at all times

South Side

- prohibit parking at all times

There will be no loss of on-street parking on this section of The Esplanade with the implementation of this proposal.

Councillor Joe Cressy and Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam have been advised of the recommendations of this staff report.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

1. Drawing No. 421G-3530, dated September 2019
2. Drawing No. 421G-3531, dated September 2019

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