

Safety Improvements - Gerrard Street East and Pembroke Street

Date: November 7, 2019
To: Toronto and East York Community Council
From: Acting Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services
Wards: Ward 13, Toronto Centre

SUMMARY

At its meetings on May 22 and September 16, 2019, Toronto and East York Community Council directed Transportation Services to study strategies to improve safety at the Gerrard Street East and Pembroke Street intersection. This report provides an overview of the safety review and safety improvements undertaken by Transportation Services.

RECOMMENDATION

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

1. Toronto and East York Community Council receive this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

All costs associated with the necessary tree removal and pedestrian crossover pushbutton relocation are included within the Parks, Forestry & Recreation and Transportation Services 2019 Operating Budget.

DECISION HISTORY

On September 16, 2019, the Toronto and East York Community Council adopted [TE8.83 Safety at the Intersection of Gerrard Street East and Pembroke Street intersection](#), and directed Transportation Services to study strategies to improve safety at the Gerrard Street East and Pembroke Street intersection, in consultation with the local residents' association.

On May 22, 2019, the Toronto and East York Community Council adopted [TE6.65 Safety at the Intersection of Gerrard Street East and Pembroke Street intersection](#), and directed Transportation Services to study strategies to improve safety at the Gerrard Street East and Pembroke Street intersection, in consultation with the local residents' association.

On January 15, 2019, the Toronto and East York Community Council adopted [Item TE2.45 Extending the Limits of Short-term Parking-Gerrard Street East](#), to amend the existing pay and display parking regulation to a maximum 15-minute parking regulation on the south side of Gerrard Street East, west of Pembroke Street.

COMMENTS

Gerrard Street East is a minor arterial roadway comprised of one eastbound and one westbound travel lane, parking on the south side and bicycle lanes on both sides of the road. It has a pavement width of about 13.5 metres, a posted speed limit of 40 km/h and sidewalks on both sides.

Pembroke Street is classified as a local roadway and operates one-way southbound. It has a pavement width of about 7.5 metres, a posted speed limit of 30 km/h and sidewalks on both sides.

Gerrard Street East and Pembroke Street form a "T" type intersection. A pedestrian crossover (PXO) is located on the west approach of this intersection. There is a median island between the eastbound bike lane and travel lane, just west of the PXO. The pushbutton post on the south side of PXO is located at the back of the sidewalk.

Safety Review and Improvements

A review of the sightline of the PXO revealed that the two trees on the median island obstruct the view of the PXO signal head and pedestrians waiting at the southwest corner of this intersection. Eastbound motorists have difficulties to see the pedestrians waiting at the southwest corner as the south side pushbutton post is located at back of the sidewalk and not adjacent to the crosswalk area.

In order to improve traffic safety, the following measures have been and will be undertaken:

- The pedestrian pushbutton for the PXO on the south side has been relocated from the traffic pole at the back of sidewalk to a new post at the curb side.
- A portion of the tree branches obstructing the PXO signal head and pedestrians and the continual growth of the tree canopy will continue to be an obstruction for sightlines. Transportation staff has requested the removal of the two trees on the median island on Gerrard Street, just west of the PXO. The trees have been requested to be relocated to Allan Gardens on the north side of Gerrard Street East.

- A new "Turning Vehicles Yield to Bikes and Pedestrians" sign, based on the soon to be published revised OTM Book 5 Regulatory Signs, has been installed for eastbound traffic on Gerrard Street East, west of Pembroke Street.

Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam has been advised of the recommendation 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-3541, dated September 2019

P:\2019\Cluster B\Tra\Toronto and East York\Top\Ts2019278te.top.doc – mb

