



## REPORT FOR ACTION

### **Metrolinx Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit - Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Management along Eglinton Avenue West between William R. Allen Road and Old Park Road**

**Date:** February 26, 2020

**To:** Infrastructure and Environment Committee

**From:** General Manager, Transportation Services

**Wards:** Ward 8 (Eglinton-Lawrence) and Ward 12 (Toronto-St. Paul's)

#### **SUMMARY**

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This report responds to the City Council direction for the General Manager, Transportation Services to review and report on traffic and pedestrian safety management along Eglinton Avenue West, from William R. Allen Road to Old Park Road.

The report reviews the existing traffic conditions and discusses the additional mitigation measures that have been implemented to enhance road safety.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The General Manager, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. The Infrastructure and Environment Committee receive this report for information.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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Transportation Services confirms that there are no immediate financial implications in the current budget year or in future years resulting from the recommendations included in the report. Funding for unforeseen financial implications arising from this report will be included for consideration in future budget submissions.

## DECISION HISTORY

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City Council, at its meeting on November 26, 2019, adopted Item IE9.9 entitled "Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Management along Eglinton Avenue West between Allen Road and Old Park Road ". The City Council decision can be found at:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.IE9.9>

## COMMENTS

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### **Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Management**

The on-going lane closures on Eglinton Avenue West to facilitate construction of the Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit (ECLRT) Cedarvale Station have resulted in reduced road capacity and increased traffic congestion in the vicinity of the station. The area residents and local Business Improvement Area (BIA) have expressed safety concerns regarding ongoing incidents of motorists engaging in unsafe driving manoeuvres which culminated in the motion endorsed by City Council.

To review existing traffic conditions and signage, a site meeting was organized during the afternoon peak period on November 18, 2019. The meeting was attended by Councillor Colle, Councillor Matlow, local BIA representatives, City staff (Transportation Services and Parks, Forestry and Recreation) and representatives of Metrolinx and Crosslinx Transit Solutions (CTS) who are building the ECLRT.

### **Eglinton Avenue West and Old Park Road/Glen Cedar Road**

During the site meeting, various problematic traffic conditions were witnessed at the intersection of Eglinton Avenue West and Old Park Road/Glen Cedar Road. Motorists were observed failing to yield/give right-of-way to pedestrians and blocking the intersection, despite "Turning Traffic Must Yield to Pedestrians/ Cyclists" warning signs posted for turning motorists at this intersection.

City Council had requested Metrolinx and CTS to provide Crossing Assistance Personnel at this location to assist pedestrians across the intersection. Metrolinx and CTS have reviewed City Council's request and advised that the ongoing issues of traffic violations are related to aggressive driving behaviour by motorists. Crossing Assistance Personnel would not be effective as they are not authorized to direct traffic or enforce Highway Traffic Act infractions. Consequently, CTS has requested Toronto Police Services to increase enforcement on this section of Eglinton Avenue West to minimize traffic violations and enhance pedestrian safety.

Additionally, concerns were expressed regarding motorists speeding on this section of Eglinton Avenue West. To address this concern, City staff installed "Watch Your Speed" signboards in the eastbound direction between Glenarden Road and Old Park Road, from December 13, 2019 to January 8, 2020 and in the westbound direction on January 8, 2020. The westbound sign is still in place at the time of this report.

The mobile "Watch Your Speed" is designed to have a sign in place for approximately three weeks. The presence of these signs act as a deterrent for speeding vehicles. Based on the vehicle volume and speed data collected in the eastbound direction, six speed violations were recorded from December 13, 2019 to January 8, 2020. Five vehicles including two heavy vehicles were recorded driving at speed between 50 km/h and 59 km/h and one heavy vehicle was recorded driving at speed between 60 km/h and 69 km/h. In the westbound direction, no speed violation was recorded from January 8, 2020 to February 3, 2020.

### **Eglinton Avenue West and Glenarden Road/Westover Hill Road**

During the site meeting, motorists were observed violating the existing signed U-turn prohibition in effect on eastbound Eglinton Avenue West, between Flanders Road and Westover Hill Road. These motorists make the illegal U-turn as a three-point turn to access the William R. Allen Road.

To complement and reinforce the existing signage, CTS have recently installed two additional "NO U-turn" signs, to provide sufficient advanced warning to the eastbound motorists about the U-turn prohibition regulation.

Further, to provide advanced notification and better direction to westbound traffic, CTS has installed three additional signs on westbound Eglinton Avenue West, between Old Park Road and Glenarden Road. These signs inform motorists to either use the right lane to access William R. Allen Road or use the left lane to continue westbound on Eglinton Avenue West.

### **Mid-block Signalized Pedestrian Crossing, east of Flanders Road**

The signalized pedestrian crossing east of the intersection of Eglinton Avenue West and Flanders Road was reviewed for road safety concerns. Pavement markings (stop bars and zebra markings) at this pedestrian crossing were found to be faded and refreshed by CTS on November 25, 2019. Additionally, the construction barrels separating the eastbound and westbound lanes of Eglinton Avenue West were relocated to physically deter illegal U-turn movements.

Staff assessed the installation of some form of barrier, such as planters, concrete barriers or splash guards, along the north sidewalk on Eglinton Avenue West, between Glenarden Road and the signalized pedestrian crossing, to physically separate pedestrians from eastbound motorists. CTS and City staff have reviewed this suggestion and because this section of sidewalk is crowded with temporary signs, bicycle rings, lamp posts, waste bins and planters there is insufficient space to install any additional form of barrier.

### **Ben Nobleman Park**

The site meeting included review of the pedestrian detour pathway through Ben Nobleman Park, which is located south of Eglinton Avenue West at William R. Allen Road. This has become an important pedestrian route while the south sidewalk on Eglinton Avenue West, between Everden Road and Strathearn Road, is closed for

construction of the Cedarvale Station, with pedestrians detoured to the paved pathway through Ben Nobleman Park. The BIA representative suggested more lighting of the park pathway to ensure pedestrian safety during nighttime hours.

City Parks, Forestry & Recreation staff have upgraded the existing lights to brighter LED light bulbs and have also installed a few spot lights to illuminate some of the darker areas of the park.

CTS have also installed additional directional signage and lighting along the south sidewalk leading up to the park entrances.

### **Eglinton Avenue West and William R. Allen Road**

Pedestrian safety at the intersection of Eglinton Avenue West and William R. Allen Road was reviewed by the local Councillor and representatives of Metrolinx and CTS during a site meeting on November 6, 2019.

City Council had requested Metrolinx and CTS to provide Crossing Assistance Personnel at the intersection of Eglinton Avenue West and William R. Allen Road to assist pedestrians across the intersection. Metrolinx and CTS have reviewed the request and informed that they believe recent pedestrian issues at this intersection are related to signage and access through Ben Nobleman Park. Therefore, Crossing Assistance Personnel will not be provided at this time. CTS will continue to conduct safety audits of the work zone at the Cedarvale Station to ensure clear and unobstructed pedestrian pathways are maintained.

In order to enhance pedestrian safety, CTS has installed larger "Pedestrians Obey Your Signals" signs and bolder "Push Button to Activate Walking Signal" signs at the intersection crosswalks. Additionally, "Slow Down" banners have been installed along Eglinton Avenue West eastbound at William R. Allen Road.

TTC bus loop at the Cedarvale Station will be closed for a period of approximately six months beginning in March 2020. The bus loop will be closed to undertake station roof construction. TTC buses will be accommodated within temporary bus laybys on Eglinton Avenue West in the vicinity of the Station. CTS has advised Transportation Services that Crossing Assistance Personnel will be provided during the roadway peak period for the duration of the bus loop closure.

City staff will continue to monitor road safety along Eglinton Avenue West in the vicinity of Cedarvale Station and coordinate with both Metrolinx and CTS any additional mitigation measures as required.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Barbara Gray  
General Manager, Transportation Services

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment 1: Location Map

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