

Proposed Traffic Control Signals - Bathurst Street approximately 15 metres South of Danby Avenue

Date: March 19, 2020

To: North York Community Council

From: Acting Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 6 - York Centre

SUMMARY

As the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates bus service on Bathurst Street, City Council approval of this report is required.

Transportation Services investigated the feasibility of removing the pedestrian refuge island (PRI) on Bathurst Street north of Danby Avenue and replacing it with traffic control signals immediately south of the intersection.

The main issue with this PRI is the presence of a near-side TTC stop on the north side of Bathurst Street, approximately 20 metres north of Danby Avenue, as TTC buses servicing this stop can potentially impede approaching motorists' view of pedestrians crossing at this PRI. In addition, as there is a significant grade and trees on the east side boulevard, the sidewalk/TTC bus stop waiting area is substandard making it difficult for pedestrians to walk in this area, while other passengers are waiting for the bus. While our analysis indicates that based on current motor vehicle volumes, delays and collisions, the installation of traffic control signals at this location is not technically warranted, we are recommending the installation of pedestrian actuated traffic control signals immediately south of Danby Avenue due to safety concerns with pedestrians waiting and crossing Bathurst Street to access the TTC bus stop and Earl Bales Park.

The recommended pedestrian actuated traffic control signals will provide safe and convenient crossing of Bathurst Street for pedestrians, including TTC passengers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council authorize the installation of traffic control signals on Bathurst Street at a point approximately 15 metres south of the intersection of Bathurst Street and Danby Avenue.

2. City Council authorize removal of the pedestrian refuge island on Bathurst Street at a point approximately 20 metres north of the intersection of Bathurst Street and Danby Avenue, in conjunction with the installation of traffic control signals at a point approximately 15 metres south of the intersection, as set out in Recommendation 1 above.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated cost for the installation of traffic control signals and the removal of the PRI at Bathurst Street and Danby Avenue is \$200,000. This installation will be considered in 2021, subject to availability of funding and competing priorities.

DECISION HISTORY

This report addresses a new initiative.

COMMENTS

In response to an enquiry/complaint from a member of the public about the safety of pedestrians using the pedestrian refuge island when crossing Bathurst Street near Danby Avenue, Transportation Services staff reviewed the feasibility of installing traffic control signals at this intersection.

Bathurst Street is classified as a major arterial street, provides two lanes in each direction and a centre left-turn lane. It has a posted speed limit of 60 km/h and a daily two-way traffic volume of approximately 31,000 vehicles. There are sidewalks on both sides of the street. The section of Bathurst Street, between the existing traffic control signals at Bainbridge Avenue/Raoul Wallenberg Road and at York Downs Drive is approximately 400 metres. Between these two signalized intersections, there are no protected pedestrian crossings provided on Bathurst Street. Transit service on this section of Bathurst Street is provided by the 7 Bathurst, 160 Bathurst and 307 Bathurst bus routes.

The area is comprised of mixed residential on the west side of Bathurst Street. Earl Bales Park is on the east of Bathurst Street. The pedestrian refuge island is located approximately 20 metres north of the intersection of Bathurst Street and Danby Avenue.

As part of a City-wide review of all Pedestrian Refuge Islands (PRI's), staff in Transportation Services, Corporate Finance (Insurance and Risk Management) and

TTC, reviewed the feasibility of replacing the pedestrian refuge island at Bathurst Street and Danby Avenue with traffic control signals.

The main issue with this PRI is the presence of a near-side TTC stop on the north side of Bathurst Street, approximately 20 metres north of Danby Avenue, as TTC buses servicing this stop can impede approaching motorists' view of pedestrians crossing at this PRI. Our analysis indicates that based on current motor vehicle volumes, delays and collisions, the installation of traffic control signals at this location is not technically warranted. Notwithstanding, Transportation Services is recommending the installation of traffic control signals due to safety concerns with pedestrians crossing Bathurst Street to access the TTC bus stop and Earl Bales Park.

Staff of the TTC have been consulted with and are in agreement with City Staff regarding the removal of the PRI and proposed installation of traffic control signals, as the location of the current TTC bus stop of the east side of Bathurst Street is not easily accessible. Therefore, the suggested location of the proposed signals would make an ideal location for the new TTC bus stop on the east side of Bathurst Street.

The Ward Councillor is aware of the recommendations in this staff report.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Map - Traffic Control Signals - Bathurst Street and Danby Avenue

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