

School Zone Review - Swanwick Avenue

Date: February 24, 2020
To: Scarborough Community Council
From: Acting Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services
Wards: Ward 20 – Scarborough Southwest

SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter for which Community Council has delegated authority to make a final decision.

This report recommends amendments to traffic and parking regulations on Swanwick Avenue in the vicinity of Blantyre Public School.

The proposed amendments will facilitate the safe drop-off/pick-up of students, as well as the safe movement of traffic within the designated community safety zone.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Scarborough Community Council prohibit stopping from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except public holidays, from September 1 of one year to June 30 of the next year, inclusive, on the north side of Swanwick Avenue, between Blantyre Avenue and Victoria Park Avenue.
2. Scarborough Community Council prohibit parking at all times on the south side of Swanwick Avenue, between Blantyre Avenue and a point 41.5 metres further west.
3. Scarborough Community Council prohibit parking at all times on the south side of Swanwick Avenue, between a point 72.5 metres west of Blantyre Avenue and a point 25 metres further west.
4. Scarborough Community Council authorize parking for a maximum period of 10 minutes from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except public holidays, from September 1 of one year to June 30 of the next year, inclusive, on the south side of Swanwick Avenue, between a point 41.5 metres west of Blantyre Avenue and a point 31 metres further west and between a point 97.5 metres west of Blantyre Avenue and a point 117 metres further west.

5. Scarborough Community Council prohibit eastbound and westbound U-turn movements at all times on Swanwick Avenue, between Blantyre Avenue and Victoria Park Avenue.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The costs associated with the installation of signage on Swanwick Avenue will be approximately \$5,000, funding for which is available within the Transportation Services 2020 Operating Budget estimates.

DECISION HISTORY

This report addresses a new initiative.

COMMENTS

Further to a January 24, 2019 meeting of the Blantyre Public School Parent Teacher Council and in response to requests from the school Principal and Councillor Gary Crawford, Transportation Services staff completed a review of traffic and parking regulations on Swanwick Avenue. Staff recommend prohibiting U-turns and authorizing short-term school side parking and an opposite side stopping prohibition on Swanwick Avenue, between Blantyre Avenue and Victoria Park Avenue, in the vicinity of Blantyre Public School.

Existing Conditions

Swanwick Avenue is a two-way east/west local road with a pavement width of approximately 8.5 metres. Sidewalks are located on the south side only, and the regulatory speed limit is 40 km/h. Parking is permitted for a maximum period of three hours on both sides of the roadway.

Blantyre Avenue is a two-way north/south local road with a pavement width of approximately 8.5 metres. Sidewalks are located on both sides of the road, and the regulatory speed limit is 40 km/h.

Adjacent land uses on Swanwick Avenue consist mainly of single family residential dwellings. Blantyre Elementary Public School is bounded by Swanwick Avenue to the north and Blantyre Avenue to the east.

Community safety zones have been designated on Swanwick Avenue, between Victoria Park Avenue and Blantyre Avenue, and Blantyre Avenue, between Linton Avenue and Northview Avenue.

Vision Zero – Toronto's Road Safety Plan

The City of Toronto is committed to eliminating traffic-related deaths and serious injuries on its roadways and protecting its most vulnerable road users (VRU), including pedestrians and cyclists. To help the City achieve that goal, in July 2016 City Council adopted the Vision Zero Road Safety Plan (Item PW14.1), which is a comprehensive, city-wide strategy that includes many road safety countermeasures that address all road users, but with particular emphasis on VRU. "School Children" is one of six emphasis areas identified in the plan.

To improve safety in areas around schools, the City is designating school safety zones and community safety zones at all schools across the City, starting with elementary (grades K-8) schools. The school safety zones program involves the installation of various signs and pavement markings enhancements along frontages of schools within 150 metres of the school property, including new "School Zone" signs with flashing beacons, radar speed display signs (also referred to as driver feedback signs), "SCHOOL" and speed limit stencils painted on the roadway and zebra crossings at all stop-controlled intersections.

With regards to community safety zones, in 2018 City Council approved the designation of community safety zones within approximately 150 metres of the school property in front of all elementary schools.

To date, seven schools in Ward 20 have received school safety zone treatments and the above countermeasures have already been implemented. Currently, St. Victor Catholic School is ranked 8th among 37 schools identified in Ward 20 and school safety zone treatments are expected to be implemented in the future based on this ranking.

Analysis

Transportation Services staff recommend the proposed amendments to complement the recently implemented community safety zone on Swanwick Avenue.

These amendments will create a safer environment for school children crossing along this roadway in the vicinity of the school by providing better sightlines, ample parking on the school side, along with "No Stopping" on the side of the street opposite the school.

U-Turn Prohibition

Considering that this is a school zone with access to a playground nearby, to complement the amended parking regulations being put in place in advance of the school and playground, a U-turn prohibition on Swanwick Avenue, between Blantyre Avenue and Victoria Park Avenue, will improve safety for all road users by minimizing vehicular conflicts and allow for enforcement by Toronto Police Service.

Councillor Crawford has been made aware of the recommendations of this report.

CONTACT

Shawn Dillon
Manager, Traffic Operations Area 1
Traffic Management
Transportation Services
Tel: 416-397-5021
Fax: 416-396-5641
E-Mail: shawn.dillon@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Roger Browne, M.A.Sc., P.Eng.
Acting Director
Traffic Management
Transportation Services

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ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1: School Zone Review - Swanwick Avenue

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