

Construction Staging Area - TTC Easier Access Program - Donlands Station (Phase 1a and 1b)

Date: August 20, 2020,
To: Toronto and East York Community Council
From: Acting Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services
Wards: Ward 14, Toronto - Danforth

SUMMARY

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

Donlands Station, located on the southwest corner of Donlands Avenue and Strathmore Boulevard, is being modernized to accommodate one at-grade elevator and one below-grade elevator at the main station. In addition, a second entrance/exit is also being added to the station that will be located on the east side of Dewhurst Boulevard south of Strathmore Boulevard, as part of the TTC's Easier Access Program and Second Exit Program. Construction of the development will be undertaken in several phases. This report deals with matters related to Phase 1a and 1b of the construction only.

Transportation Services is requesting authorization to close a portion of the north sidewalk and a 2 metre wide portion of the westbound curb lane on Strathmore Boulevard from a point 13 metres west of Donlands Avenue and a point 24 metres further west, for a period of three months (i.e., October 2, 2020 to December 31, 2020), to accommodate construction staging operations in Phase 1a.

During Phase 1b, the sidewalk and lane closure implemented during Phase 1a will be removed and Strathmore Boulevard will be returned its previous lane configuration. Although no long duration closures are proposed with Phase 1b and the majority of work being completed can be accommodated without encroaching onto the municipal right-of-way, portions on the south sidewalk on Strathmore Boulevard and east sidewalk on Dewhurst Boulevard are proposed to be removed and temporary decking will be used within these areas when construction activities are not taking place. It is anticipated that this phase of the project will be completed April 2021.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council authorize the closure of the north sidewalk on Strathmore Boulevard, from a point from a point 13 metres west of Donlands Avenue to a point 24 metres further west, from October 2, 2020 to December 31, 2020.
2. City Council authorize the closure of a 2 metre wide portion of the westbound curb lane on Strathmore Boulevard, from a point 13 metres west of Donlands Avenue to a point 24 metres further west, from October 2, 2020 to December 31, 2020.
3. City Council rescind the existing parking prohibition in effect at all times on the north side Strathmore Boulevard, between Donlands Avenue and a point 45 metres west.
4. City Council prohibit stopping at all times on the north side of Strathmore Boulevard, between Donlands Avenue and a point 45 metres west.
5. City Council rescind the existing maximum one-hour parking regulation in effect from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., on the south side of Strathmore Boulevard, between Donlands Avenue and point 52 metres west.
6. City Council prohibit stopping at all times on the south side of Strathmore Boulevard, between Donlands Avenue and a point 52 metres west.
7. City Council direct the applicant to pressure wash the construction site and adjacent sidewalks and roadways weekly, or more frequently as needed to be cleared of any construction debris and made safe.
8. City Council direct the applicant to ensure that the existing sidewalks or the proposed pedestrian walkway have proper enhanced lighting to ensure safety and visibility at all times of the day and night.
9. City Council direct the applicant to clearly consult and communicate all construction, parking and road occupancy impacts with local business improvement areas and resident associations in advance of any physical road modifications.
10. City Council direct the applicant to install appropriate signage and converging mirrors to ensure that pedestrians, cyclists and motorists safety is considered at all times.
11. City Council direct the applicant to provide a sufficient number of traffic control persons as determined by the Work Zone Traffic Coordinator and Toronto Police Construction Liaison Officer, on a daily basis to control construction vehicle access and egress to and from the site and maintain a safe environment for the public.

12. City Council direct the applicant to provide a sufficient number of pay-duty Police Officers as determined by the Work Zone Traffic Coordinator and Toronto Police Construction Liaison Officer, during large scale concrete pours and large scale material deliveries to control vehicle access and egress to and from the site and maintain a safe environment for the public.

13 City Council the applicant to install cane detection within the covered and protected walkway to guide pedestrians who are visually impaired.

14. City Council direct the applicant to post a 24-hour monitored construction hotline number on the hoarding board, which must be prominently placed and legible from 20 metres and on all elevations from the construction site.

15. City Council direct the applicant to provide and install public art, including mural artwork, onto every elevation of the hoarding board with adequate spotlighting for night-time illumination, at their sole cost, to the satisfaction of the Ward Councillor.

16 City Council direct that Strathmore Boulevard be returned to pre-construction traffic and parking regulations when the project is complete.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact to the City. The TTC will be responsible for all costs associated with the installation of signage and traffic control set-up.

DECISION HISTORY

This is a new initiative.

COMMENTS

Proposed Development

Station improvements are being performed at Donlands Station, in the form of one at-grade and one below-grade elevator at the main station (30 Donlands Avenue) on the southwest corner of Donlands Avenue and Strathmore Boulevard. In addition, a second entrance/exit is being constructed on the east side Dewhurst Boulevard, south of Strathmore Boulevard on the site municipally known as 17 Dewhurst Boulevard. The planned at-grade/below-grade elevators and second exit are part of the TTC's Easier Access Program.

Phase 1a and 1b will include the relocation of existing utilities. The remaining phases include below-grade construction related to the new concourse structure, two elevator shafts and second exit. The project will be undertaken in several phases and the overall project is expected to be completed in approximately 5 years. This report deals with matters related to Phase 1a and 1b of the construction only. The remaining construction phases will be discussed in future staff reports.

Phase 1a will require a construction staging area on the north side of Strathmore Boulevard, from a point 13 metres west of Donlands Avenue to a point 24 metres further west. This staging area will require the closure of the north sidewalk and a 2 metre wide portion of the westbound curb lane on Strathmore Boulevard.

As part of Phase 1a, short duration overnight construction activities will also be required at/near the intersection of Donlands Avenue and Strathmore Boulevard and will require the closure of a 4 metre wide portion of the southbound traffic lanes and the west sidewalk on Donlands Avenue, from approximately 25 metres north of Strathmore Boulevard to approximately 25 metres south of Strathmore Boulevard. This work is required to relocate underground utilities and will be completed during non-TTC operating hours (1:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.). During the operating hours the roadway and sidewalk will be reopened with temporary decking in place to accommodate vehicular traffic and pedestrians. Since this closure is short duration and does not require council approval, it is being included for information purposes only.

As part of the second entrance/exit, the structures at 17 and 19 Dewhurst Avenue will be demolished. However, it appears that all construction related to the demolition can be maintained without encroaching onto the municipal right-of-way.

As part of Phase 1b, the staging area will be removed from Strathmore Boulevard and construction activities for this phase appear to be focused at the west end of Strathmore Boulevard and the east side of Dewhurst Boulevard, south of Strathmore Boulevard. Although no long duration (greater than 30 days) closures are proposed, this phase does include the removal of sidewalks on the east side of Dewhurst Boulevard, south of Strathmore Boulevard and on the south side of Strathmore Boulevard, east of Dewhurst Boulevard. In addition, one roadway crossing is required on Strathmore Boulevard, east of Dewhurst Boulevard. For these locations, temporary decking is proposed at these locations to maintain vehicular and pedestrian access when construction activities are not taking place.

This report deals with matters related to Phase 1a and 1b of the construction only. The remaining construction phases will be discussed in future staff reports.

Existing Conditions:

Donlands Avenue, in the vicinity of the site, is a four-lane minor arterial roadway and consists of two traffic lanes for each direction. However, traffic islands located within the northbound curb lane on Donlands Avenue, north of Strathmore Boulevard, in front of Wilkinson Public School, effectively reduce the northbound traffic to one lane in that area. TTC buses operate on Donlands Avenue servicing the Donlands Station on the southwest corner of Donlands Avenue and Strathmore Boulevard.

Strathmore Boulevard and Dewhurst Boulevard are two lane local roads with sidewalks on both sides of the street. TTC buses use the subject section of Strathmore Boulevard as they exit Donlands Station and return to Donlands Avenue.

Parking is prohibited at all times on the north side of Strathmore Boulevard and the east side of Dewhurst Boulevard. Parking is allowed for a maximum of one-hour between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., and overnight by permit, on the south side of Strathmore Boulevard and west side of Dewhurst Boulevard.

Construction Staging Area:

Construction staging operations on Strathmore Boulevard will take place within the boulevard and allowance. Subject to approval, the north sidewalk and a 2.0 metre wide portion of the westbound curb lane between a point 13 metres west of Donlands Avenue and a point 24 metres further west, opposite Donlands Station, will be closed from October 2, 2020 to December 31, 2020 in order to facilitate the relocation of the underground utilities required for the upgrades at Donlands Station.

In order to ensure parked vehicles do not impede access for deliveries and equipment to the site, it is proposed that stopping be prohibited at all times on the north side of Strathmore Boulevard, between Donlands Avenue and a point 45 metres west. In addition, it is proposed that stopping be prohibited at all times on the south side of Strathmore Boulevard, between Donlands Avenue and a point 52 metres west.

This staging area will result in the loss of approximately three permit parking spaces on the south side of Strathmore Boulevard, abutting of the site. The Permit Parking section has been consulted and have advised there is sufficient parking in the area to accommodate the loss of the three parking spaces, without significant impact to the permit holders.

Since the pedestrian sidewalk is not being maintained on the north side of Strathmore Boulevard, pedestrians will be advised of this temporary sidewalk closure, by appropriate advanced warning signage that will be installed, to clearly inform pedestrians to use the south sidewalk. These signs will be installed at the intersections of Donlands Avenue and Strathmore Boulevard and Strathmore Boulevard and Dewhurst Boulevard.

Although no long-term staging is required, overnight construction work to underground utilities near the intersection of Donlands Avenue and Strathmore Boulevard will require overnight closures within the existing boulevard allowance on the west side of Donlands Avenue and a 4 metre wide portion of the southbound lanes on Donlands Avenue, abutting the site to a point approximately 23 metres north of Strathmore Boulevard. This will include the west approach to the intersection of Donlands Avenue and Strathmore Boulevard, restricting access to and from Strathmore Boulevard to Donlands Avenue. This work will be completed overnight and opened back up to vehicular and pedestrian traffic during TTC operating hours. When construction activities are taking place on Donlands Avenue, the area in the vicinity of the site will operate as one northbound and one southbound lane.

Through ongoing dialogue, Transportation Services is satisfied that the TTC has looked at all options to minimize the duration and impact of the construction staging area on all road users.

The Ward Councillor has been advised of the recommendations of this report.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

1. Drawing No. EY20-033, dated August 2020

Construction Staging Area - TTC Donlands Station

