

Lane Designation - One Way Traffic Lane Northbound Right Turn (Buses Excepted): Bathurst Street and Finch Avenue West

Date: January 12, 2021
To: North York Community Council
From: Acting Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services
Wards: Ward 18, Willowdale and Ward 6, York Centre

SUMMARY

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

Transportation Services is requesting approval to designate the northbound curb lane on Bathurst Street at Finch Avenue West as "right turn only, buses excepted".

The proposed recommendation will define traffic lane usage while allowing TTC buses to utilize the northbound right turn only lane to drop-off/pick-up commuters and legally proceed into the intersection to merge into the adjacent traffic lane. This recommendation will be executed with the installation of signs and pavement markings. Physical alteration to the road will not be required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council designate the easterly lane on Bathurst Street, between Finch Avenue West and a point 45 metres south, Northbound Right Turn, Buses Excepted.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated cost associated with the proposed amendments are approximately \$2,000.00. Funding is available within the Transportation Services Interim 2021 Operating Budget.

DECISION HISTORY

This report addresses a new initiative.

COMMENTS

Transportation Services was requested by the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC), to review the feasibility of designating a one-way northbound right turn lane with an exemption for TTC buses, thereby allowing them to utilize the designated right turn lane to drop-off/pick-up passengers and proceed north on Bathurst Street.

Existing Conditions

Bathurst Street is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is a six-lane, north/south, major arterial roadway, located in the Willowdale Community of North York
- It operates two-way traffic on a pavement width of approximately 26.2 metres
- The typical eight hour two-way traffic volume is approximately 19,443 vehicles and the statutory speed limit is 50 km/h
- TTC service is provided by bus routes 7 and 160
- There are sidewalks located on both sides of the street
- Bathurst Street at Finch Avenue West is equipped with traffic control signals
- There are three existing lanes for northbound traffic on Bathurst Street. The left lane is designated as northbound left-turn, the centre lane as northbound through and the 7.2 metre wide right lane functions as a through and right-turn lane
- Currently there is no designated "northbound right turn only" lane
- Our records indicate that approximately 709 vehicles make a northbound right turn during the peak eight hours of a typical week day

Finch Avenue West is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is a six-lane, east/west, major arterial roadway, located in the Willowdale neighbourhood of North York
- It operates two-way traffic on a pavement width of approximately 19.5 metres
- The typical eight hour two-way traffic volume is approximately 16,858 vehicles and the statutory speed limit is 50 km/h
- TTC operates bus route 36
- There are sidewalks located on both sides of the street
- Finch Avenue West at Bathurst Street is equipped with traffic control signals

The intersection of Finch Avenue West and Bathurst Street is a four legged signalized intersection. Currently, there are three lanes for northbound traffic on the south leg of the intersection. The dedicated left-turn lane, the centre through lane and the wide curb lane which is shared by through and right turning traffic. North of the intersection there are two northbound receiving lanes. A designated lane for right-turn only, buses excepted will mitigate any conflicting through and turning traffic movements in addition

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to defining traffic lane usage. This will also alleviate northbound right turn vehicle delays. This recommendation requires the installation of signs and pavement markings but no physical alterations to the road will be made.

A nearside TTC shelter is located approximately 15 metres south of the intersection on Bathurst Street. With the proposed northbound right turn lane, TTC buses can legally use the lane to drop off and pick up transit patrons. A map of the area is included in Attachment 1.

Ward 18 and Ward 6 Councillors have been advised of the recommendations of this staff report.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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Acting Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Map - Lane Designation - One-Way Right Turn Only (Buses Excepted):
Bathurst Street and Finch Avenue West.

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Bathurst Street and Finch Avenue West.

