

Turn Prohibitions - Midland Avenue and Lockie Avenue

Date: March 29, 2021

To: Scarborough Community Council

From: Acting Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 22, Scarborough-Agincourt; Ward 23, Scarborough North

SUMMARY

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

Transportation Services is requesting approval to prohibit northbound left-turns and southbound right-turns at the intersection of Midland Avenue and Lockie Avenue during regular school drop-off and pick-up between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. The turn restrictions at the subject intersections are to encourage one-way vehicular travel along the school frontage during these periods when the roadway is most often congested and blocked with two-way traffic due to drop-off and pick-up activity in the vicinity of Agincourt Junior Public School zone.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council prohibit northbound left-turns from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except public holidays, from September 1 of one year to June 30 of the next following year, inclusive at Midland Avenue and Lockie Avenue.
2. City Council prohibit southbound right-turns from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except public holidays, from September 1 of one year to June 30 of the next following year, inclusive at Midland Avenue and Lockie Avenue.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated cost of installing the signs is \$2,000. Funding is anticipated to be available within the Transportation Services 2021 Operating Budget.

DECISION HISTORY

This report addresses a new initiative.

COMMENTS

Transportation Services was requested by the former Ward 22 councillor, on behalf of Agincourt Village Community Association, to prohibit northbound left-turns and southbound right-turns at Midland Avenue and Lockie Avenue, during morning and afternoon school drop-off and pick-up times.

Existing Conditions

Midland Avenue is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is a four-lane, north-south major arterial road
- It operates two-way traffic on a pavement width of approximately 14 metres
- The daily two-way traffic volume is approximately 26,000 vehicles
- The posted regulatory speed limit is 50 km/h
- Heavy trucks are prohibited from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
- There is Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) service provided by the 57 Midland Bus
- There are sidewalks on both sides of the street
- There are two schools that generate pedestrians crossing at this signalized intersection, with a school crossing guard on duty during school hours. This section of the road is also designated a school safety zone and a community safety zone.

Lockie Avenue is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is a two-lane, east-west, local road
- It operates two-way traffic on a pavement width of approximate variance between 9.5 metres and 7.5 metres
- The daily two-way traffic volume is approximately 700 vehicles
- The posted speed limit is 40 km/h
- Heavy trucks are prohibited at all times
- There are sidewalks located on the south side of the street with culvert boulevards and no curbs

- There are two schools that generate pedestrians crossing at this signalized intersection, with a school crossing guard on duty during school hours. This section of the road is also designated a school safety zone and a community safety zone.

The subject intersection forms a right-angled "T" type intersection, with right-of-way controlled by traffic control signals at Midland Avenue and Lockie Avenue. Midland Avenue and Lockie Avenue were recently designated as a School Safety Zone and Community Safety Zone. The School Safety Zones program involves the installation of various signs and pavement markings enhancements along frontage within 150 metres of the school property, including new School Safety 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 controlled intersections which are in place at the subject schools.

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, along frontages of schools. The Community Safety Zones signs have also been recently installed on Midland Avenue and Lockie Avenue for both vehicular directions. Agincourt Collegiate Institute is located on the east side of this intersection, and Agincourt Junior Public School is located on Lockie Avenue west of this intersection at the southwest corner of the intersection of Lockie Avenue and Midland Avenue.

A map of the area is included in Attachment 1.

Proposed Turn Prohibitions

The proposed turn prohibitions at the subject intersection are to encourage one-way eastbound travel on Lockie Avenue during school pick-up and drop-off hours (Monday to Friday, except public holidays, from September 1 of one year to June 30 of the next following year). Staff acknowledge the installation of the northbound left-turn and southbound right-turn prohibitions are feasible during regular Monday to Friday school drop-off and pick-up, between 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. These morning and afternoon periods are the times when the roadway is most often congested and blocked with two-way traffic due to drop-off and pick-up activity in the vicinity of the school zone.

To assess the impact of these proposed turn restrictions on established travel patterns, traffic movement studies on Wednesday, June 5, 2019 revealed that during the morning, 88 eastbound vehicles and 32 westbound vehicles movements were recorded. Similarly, during the afternoon 68 eastbound vehicles and 32 westbound vehicles movements were recorded. During these peak times, the westbound turning movements from the intersection would be prohibited and subject to police enforcement. During these times, any motorists observed disobeying these regulations would be subject to a turning movement violation and subject to potentially significant penalties.

Prohibiting northbound and southbound turns on Midland Avenue, will create one-way vehicular travel in the vicinity of Agincourt Junior Public School. However, it should be noted that the 32 westbound vehicles in the morning and 32 westbound vehicles in the afternoon school peak periods would be displaced to adjacent intersections. Given the network of the roadways in this area, it is anticipated that this traffic will utilize either Donalda Crescent to the south and/or Havendale Road/Roker Crescent to the north from Midland Avenue. Given the relatively low volumes, there should be minimal impact on these roads.

The proposed turn prohibitions, within this school zone, are feasible and may enhance safety for all road users by minimizing vehicular conflicts, allow for enforcement by Toronto Police Service, and bring this community closer to the City wide "Vision Zero" initiative.

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

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Map - Turn Prohibitions - Midland Avenue and Lockie Avenue

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