

Traffic Control Signals - Steeles Avenue East and Morningside Avenue

Date: April 29, 2021

To: Scarborough Community Council

From: Acting Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services

Wards: 23, Scarborough North

SUMMARY

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

Transportation Services is requesting approval to install traffic control signals at the intersection of Steeles Avenue East and Morningside Avenue. The traffic control signals will provide enhanced safety for all road users and is justified based on the assessment undertaken.

The segment of Morningside Avenue between Steeles Avenue East and Passmore Avenue has been constructed by the applicant of 6531 Steeles Avenue East as a private road to service their site and will ultimately be conveyed to the City through the development application approval process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council authorize the installation of traffic control signals at the intersection of Steeles Avenue East and Morningside Avenue.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated cost for installing traffic control signals at the intersection of Steeles Avenue East and Morningside Avenue is \$250,000.00. All costs associated with the installation of the new traffic control signals will be borne by the property owner, in accordance with the development agreement.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on July 16, 17, and 18, 2019, City Council authorized Transportation Services staff to negotiate with the applicant for the redevelopment of 6531 Steeles Avenue East to design and construct a new segment of Morningside Avenue between Steeles Avenue East and Passmore Avenue:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.SC7.5>

COMMENTS

Transportation Services was requested by the Ward Councillor to expedite the design and construction of the Steeles Avenue East and Morningside Avenue intersection, including the installation of traffic control signals, to address pedestrian safety concerns observed in the area.

The extension of Morningside Avenue between Steeles Avenue East and McNicoll Avenue is identified in Schedule 2 of the Official Plans as a planned but unbuilt street. The segment of Morningside Avenue between Steeles Avenue East and Passmore Avenue is required to service the subject site and is being designed and constructed by the applicant in close coordination with Transportation Services staff.

The subject site is now in operation and generating vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The Ward Councillor has advised Transportation Services that in its current state there is a risk to pedestrians who are attempting to reach the site along Steeles Avenue East where there is currently insufficient infrastructure, including a lack of sidewalks.

On January 11, 2021, TTC diverted its 53B Steeles East bus service to more directly serve the employees of the subject site with pick-up and drop-off along Passmore Avenue. TTC is also operating extra trips of overnight bus service trips to support employees of the subject site with early morning shift start times. This temporary diversion will be in effect until the subject traffic control signals have been activated, at which time TTC service will resume with 53B Steeles East stopping at the intersection of Steeles Avenue East and Morningside Avenue.

Existing Conditions

Steeles Avenue East is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is a two lane, east-west, major arterial roadway
- It operates two-way traffic on a pavement width of approximately 7.3 metres
- The daily two-way traffic volume is approximately 19,000 vehicles
- The posted speed limit is 50 km/h
- Heavy trucks are permitted at all times

- There is TTC service provided by the 53A, 39B, 116C buses and York Region Transit Service provided by the 939C and 953A buses
- There are no sidewalks located on either side of the street
- It is a rural cross-section with gravel shoulders and drainage ditches on both sides

Morningside Avenue is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is a five-lane, north-south, roadway (new roadway - road classification pending)
- It will operate two-way traffic on a pavement width of approximately 15 metres
- The projected daily two-way traffic volume is currently unknown
- The unposted regulatory speed limit will be 50 km/h
- Heavy trucks will be permitted at all times
- There is currently no TTC service
- There are sidewalks planned for both sides of the street
- There is a multiuse trail planned for the east side of the street

Steeles Avenue East and Morningside Avenue form a "T" type intersection. Morningside Avenue is currently un-opened while Steeles Avenue East is uncontrolled free-flow.

The adjacent land use in this area is primarily classified as general industrial. Presently, there are no sidewalks or paved shoulders on Steeles Avenue East to service pedestrians reaching the subject site. There is insufficient right-of-way space and road grade at this segment of Steeles Avenue East to introduce temporary safety improvements such as paved sidewalks. Steeles Avenue East will ultimately be reconstructed as a six-lane urban street with sidewalks between Tapscott Road and Donald Cousens Parkway.

The closest adjacent traffic control on Steeles Avenue East is located at Tapscott Road, approximately 450 metres to the west of the subject site.

A map of the area is included in Attachment 1.

Traffic Control Signals

As noted in the 6351 Steeles Avenue East - Zoning Amendment and Draft Plan of Subdivision Applications – Final Report, if the full Morningside Avenue Environmental Assessment recommendations are not constructed prior to the proposed development, signalization of the Steeles Avenue East and Morningside Avenue intersection is recommended to support the development.

Since the Morningside Avenue Environmental Assessment recommendations are not fully constructed and will be partially constructed by the applicant, and the site is operational, signalization of the Steeles Avenue East and Morningside Avenue intersection is recommended.

The Ward Councillor has been advised of the recommendation in this report.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Steeles Avenue East and Morningside Avenue: Traffic Control Signals

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