

Accessible Loading Zone - St Helen's Avenue

Date: April 29, 2021

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

From: Acting Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 9, Davenport

SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter that Community Council has delegated authority to make a final decision, provided that it is not amended so that it varies with City Policy or by-laws.

Transportation Services is recommending the installation of a designated on-street accessible loading zone on the east side of St Helen's Avenue, south of Bloor Street West. The establishment of an accessible loading zone will provide unimpeded curbside access to the parishioners of the church located at 1307 Bloor Street West.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Toronto and East York Community Council designate an accessible loading zone to operate from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Mon.-Fri., and 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Sun. on the east side of St Helen's Avenue, between a point 9.0 metres south of Bloor Street West and a point 10.3 metres further south.
2. Toronto and East York Community Council approve the parking machine regulation in effect from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday, for a maximum period of three hours, at the rate of \$ 2.00 per hour, on the east side of St Helen's Avenue, between a point 9 metres south of Bloor Street West and a point 10.3 metres further south.
3. Toronto and East York Community Council amend the existing maximum one hour parking limit in effect from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., daily, on the east side of St. Helen's Avenue, between Bloor Street and Dublin Street, to be in effect from Dublin Street to a point 19.3 metres south of Bloor Street West.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated amount associated with the necessary signage installation is \$700.00 and is available within the Transportation Services 2021 Operating Budget.

DECISION HISTORY

This report addresses a new initiative.

COMMENTS

Transportation Services has investigated the feasibility of establishing an accessible loading zone on the east side of St Helen's Avenue, immediately south of Bloor Street West.

St Helen's Avenue, between Bloor Street West and a point 99 metres south is a two-lane, two-way, local roadway, and is a single lane, local roadway operating one-way southbound, between a point 99 metres south of Bloor Street West and Whytock Avenue. The pavement width varies from 7.3 metres to 8.5 metres and regulatory speed limit is 30 km/h. Speed humps are installed as a traffic calming measure on this roadway. Sidewalk exists on both sides of St Helen's Avenue. Heavy vehicles are prohibited at all times. There is no Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) service provided along St Helen's Avenue.

Parking is prohibited at all times on the west side of St Helen's Avenue, between Bloor Street West and Dublin Street. Maximum one-hour parking, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., maximum of three-hour parking at other times; and permit parking, from 12:01 a.m. to 7:00 a.m., daily, regulations are in operation on the east side of St Helen's Avenue, between Bloor Street West and Dublin Street.

People in Wheel-Trans bus or vehicles with accessible parking permits frequently visit a church located on the south side of Bloor Street West (1307 Bloor Street West) and have difficulty accessing curbside on Bloor Street West due to the designated bike lanes along Bloor Street West. Similarly, they have difficulty accessing curbside of St Helen's Avenue, which is the nearest street to pick-up/drop-off, when curbside access is blocked by parked vehicles. The accessible vehicle/Wheel-Trans vehicles must "double park", impeding the flow of traffic and safety of the passenger. Or, the bus or accessible vehicles should park either in the no parking area, on the east side of St Helen's Avenue, or further south where parking space is available on St Helen's Avenue, causing difficulty for people with mobility issues, particularly during the winter when snowbanks form and sidewalks can be slippery.

As per church request, the accessible loading service is required from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday to Friday and from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Sunday. To facilitate curbside access for the person with disability, installation of an accessible loading zone on the east side of St Helen's Avenue, immediately south of Bloor Street West, is recommended. The designated area may also be used during the operational period by any vehicles displaying a valid accessible parking permit while actively engaged in pick-up/drop-off activities.

The accessible loading zone is proposed on the east side of St Helen's Avenue, between a point 9 metres south of Bloor Street West and a point 10.3 metres further south. A Wheel-Trans bus or two cars with the valid accessible parking permits can pick-up/drop-off passengers at a time within the proposed loading zone.

To facilitate high demand of parking along Bloor Street West and on this street, parking machine regulation is proposed on the remaining day, Saturday, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., outside of the accessible loading period at the above mentioned location. Maximum three-hour parking period, per hour rate of \$ 2.00, and time periods of pay parking operations are selected as same as on Bloor Street West, close to this location.

The proposed accessible loading zone and parking machine regulation at the above mentioned location will not affect permit parking spaces, as the time-period of loading zone and pay parking is outside of the permit parking time period from 12:01 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.

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 - Proposed Accessible Loading Zone - St. Helen's Avenue

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