

Stop Control and Parking Amendments - Old Forest Hill Road, Vesta Drive, Dewbourne Avenue

Date: August 23, 2021

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

From: Director, Project Design and Management, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 12 – Toronto - St. Paul's

SUMMARY

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

In 2021, the intersection of Old Forest Hill Road, Vesta Drive, and Dewbourne Avenue was reconstructed through a Vision Zero Project which was initiated through a request from the former Ward Councillor.

The scope of the project included splitting the intersection into three T-intersections, tightening some corners, widening sidewalks, improving accessibility at the crossings and adding greenspace. These changes are shown to increase safety by reducing vehicle turning speeds, reducing exposure for people walking and significantly improving sightlines between all users.

In June 2021, the Toronto and East York Community Council directed the General Manager, Transportation Services, to implement any necessary changes to address safety and visibility concerns at this location. Transportation Services has undertaken a review of the intersection post-construction, recommended (and actioned) signage placement and clarity improvements, and does not recommend changes to the geometry.

Transportation Services is recommending changes to the existing stop-control bylaws and parking prohibitions to support the new layout.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director, Project Design and Management, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. Toronto and East York Community Council amend the existing parking prohibition in effect from 2:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m., Monday to Friday, except public holidays on the south side of Dewbourne Avenue, between Glenayr Road and Old Forest Hill Road, to be in effect between Glenayr Road and a point 30 metres west of Old Forest Hill Road.
2. Toronto and East York Community Council prohibit parking at all times on the south side of Dewbourne Avenue, between Old Forest Hill Road and a point 30 metres further west.
3. Toronto and East York Community Council prohibit parking at all times on the east side of Vesta Drive, between Old Forest Hill Road and a point 20 metres further south.
4. Toronto and East York Community Council amend the existing parking prohibition in effect from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Saturday, on the west side of Old Forest Hill Road, between a point 41.1 metres south of Eglinton Avenue West and Vesta Drive, to be in effect between a point 41.1 metres south of Eglinton Avenue West and a point 15 metres north of Vesta Drive (north intersection).
5. Toronto and East York Community Council rescind the existing stop control on Dewbourne Avenue at Vesta Drive.
6. Toronto and East York Community Council rescind the existing stop control on Vesta Drive at Dewbourne Avenue.
7. Toronto and East York Community Council rescind the existing stop control on Old Forest Hill Road at Vesta Drive.
8. Toronto and East York Community Council amend the existing stop control on Vesta Drive at Old Forest Hill Road, to be in effect for southbound traffic on Vesta Drive (north intersection) at Old Forest Hill Road and for northbound traffic on Vesta Drive (south intersection) at Old Forest Hill Road.
9. Toronto and East York Community Council authorize all-way compulsory stop control at the intersection of Dewbourne Avenue and Old Forest Hill Road.
10. Toronto and East York Community Council prohibit heavy trucks at all times on Vesta Drive, between Eglinton Avenue West and Old Forest Hill Road.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The signage costs associated with the proposed amendments are approximately \$1000. Funding is available within the Transportation Services 2021 Capital Budget.

DECISION HISTORY

On June 24, 2021, the Toronto and East York Community Council directed the General Manager, Transportation Services, to reconfigure the corner radii and curb extensions, Stop Control and Parking Amendments - Old Forest Hill Rd, Vesta Dr, Dewbourne Av

and implement any necessary changes to address safety and visibility concerns at the 5-way intersection of Old Forest Hill Road, Vesta Drive and Dewbourne Avenue between now and the Fall in consultation with the Ward Councillor <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.TE26.69>

COMMENTS

In 2017, the office of former Ward Councillor Mihevc identified safety concerns raised by the local community at the previously five-way intersection of Old Forest Hill Road, Vesta Drive, and Dewbourne Avenue.

Transportation Services staff investigated the intersection and identified the following operational concerns:

- The arrangement and number of approaches causing visibility issues and difficulty establishing right-of-way, which may cause aggressive driving behaviour and reduced safety for people walking and cycling at the intersection;
- The existing intersection angles and curb radii encouraging motorists to turn at a greater speed than considered safe; and
- Due to large curb radii, the pedestrian crossing distances were extensive, and north-south crossing pedestrians (including school children) were exposed to traffic for extended distances (22 to 25 metres).

To address the concerns above, an intersection reconstruction was programmed as a Vision Zero Project.

In 2021 Transportation Services reconfigured the intersection of Old Forest Hill Road, Vesta Drive and Dewbourne Avenue through an intersection reconstruction. The five legged intersection was 'normalized', and converted to three T-intersections. The scope of the project included tightening some corners, widening sidewalks, improving accessibility at the crossings and adding greenspace. These changes are shown to increase safety by reducing vehicle turning speeds, reducing exposure for people walking and significantly improving sightlines between all users. These changes reduce the chance of collisions between users, and if a collision should occur, the severity would be greatly reduced.

To support the new layout, the existing stop-control bylaws need to be amended, and some parking restrictions are needed to keep the intersections unobstructed.

Existing Conditions

Old Forest Hill Road is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is a two-lane, north/south, local roadway
- It operates two-way traffic on a pavement width of approximately 7.2 metres
- The daily two-way traffic volume is approximately 12,000 vehicles and the posted speed limit is 30 km/h
- Heavy trucks are permitted at all times
- There is no TTC service provided
- There are sidewalks located on the east side of the street

- The parking regulations on Old Forest Hill Road, within the subject section are as follows:
 - East side - no parking anytime
 - West side - no parking 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Saturday between a point 41.1 metres south of Eglinton Avenue West and Vesta Drive

Vesta Drive is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is a two-lane, north/south, local roadway
- It operates two-way traffic on a pavement width of approximately 7.2 metres
- The 8-hour two-way traffic volume is approximately 1,100 vehicles and the posted speed limit is 30 km/h
- Heavy trucks are prohibited at all times through posted signage. Recommendation 10 within this report is to formalize the prohibition.
- There is no TTC service provided
- There are sidewalks located on the east side of the street north of Old Forest Hill Road, and there are no sidewalks south of Old Forest Hill Road
- The parking regulations on Vesta Drive, within the subject section are as follows:
 - East side - no parking 2:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. between Old Forest Hill Road and Eglinton Avenue West
 - West side - no parking anytime between Eglinton Avenue West and Elderwood Drive

Dewbourne Avenue is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is a two-lane, east/west, local roadway
- It operates two-way traffic on a pavement width of approximately 7.2 metres
- The daily two-way traffic volume is approximately 800 vehicles and the posted speed limit is 30 km/h
- Heavy trucks are prohibited at all times
- There is no TTC service provided
- There are no sidewalks located on the street
- The parking regulations on Dewbourne Avenue, within the subject section are as follows:
 - South side - no parking 2:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. Monday to Friday, except public holidays between Glenayr Road and Old Forest Hill Road
 - North side - no parking anytime between Vesta Drive and Bathurst Street.

The stop control at the subject intersection existed as follows:

- All five legs of the intersection were under all-way stop control.

Prior to the intersection reconfiguration, there have been nine collisions in the last ten years, one of which involved injury to a pedestrian.

Intersection Review and Safety Assessment

Intersection reconfigurations to tighten corners and encourage lower speeds are not always initially welcomed by communities, especially while construction closures are further disrupting traffic flow and narrowing streets. Resident concerns arose during

construction, and meetings were held between the Ward Councillor's office, staff and residents (virtually on May 13, 2021, partially on-site and partially virtual on June 17, 2021, and in-person on July 27, 2021). Several residents indicated that they felt the new smaller curb radii were making the intersection less safe. While people walking or cycling will often feel an immediate improvement, it is not unusual for people driving to initially feel that the intersection has gotten less safe, as it often takes time to adjust to having to reduce their driving speed on a familiar route.

In June 2021, during construction, Community Council directed staff to reconfigure the corner radii and curb extensions, and implement any necessary changes to address safety and visibility concerns. As a result of this motion, following completion of intersection reconstruction in July, staff undertook multiple on-site observations of intersection operations.

The staff review confirmed that the intersection is operating as intended. Passenger vehicles were observed to be able to stay in their lane when following safe speeds while trucks encroached into the opposing lane to complete their turns. Similarly, firetrucks are expected to turn using all available road width, as per design.

The geometric modifications were designed following industry best practices for road safety and are as per standards and guidelines, including the City of Toronto Curb Radii and Lane Width Guidelines. These guidelines ensure that intersection designs maximize safety for all users, with a particular focus on safety of those most vulnerable.

The staff review concluded that there are no safety and visibility issues at the newly reconstructed intersection and no engineering basis for making any geometric changes, including any reconfiguration of the corner radii. Any reconfiguration would be going against industry best practices, City guidelines, and the stamped engineering design developed specifically for this intersection. Increasing the radii would make the intersection less safe for vulnerable road users by increasing pedestrian crossing distances and exposure to traffic, encouraging higher speed turns, increasing the likelihood of collisions and the severity of impact should a collision occur.

Proposed Changes

In order to support the new layout, stop control by-law amendments are proposed to add stop conditions on Vesta Drive at Old Forest Hill Road, and authorize all-way compulsory stop control at the intersection of Dewbourne Avenue and Old Forest Hill Road. Parking restrictions are proposed on the south leg of Vesta Drive (approximately one space) and on Dewbourne Avenue (approximately three spaces) to ensure the intersections remain unobstructed.

A map of the area and proposed parking amendments is included in Attachment 1.
A map of the stop sign configuration is included in Attachment 2.

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

CONTACT

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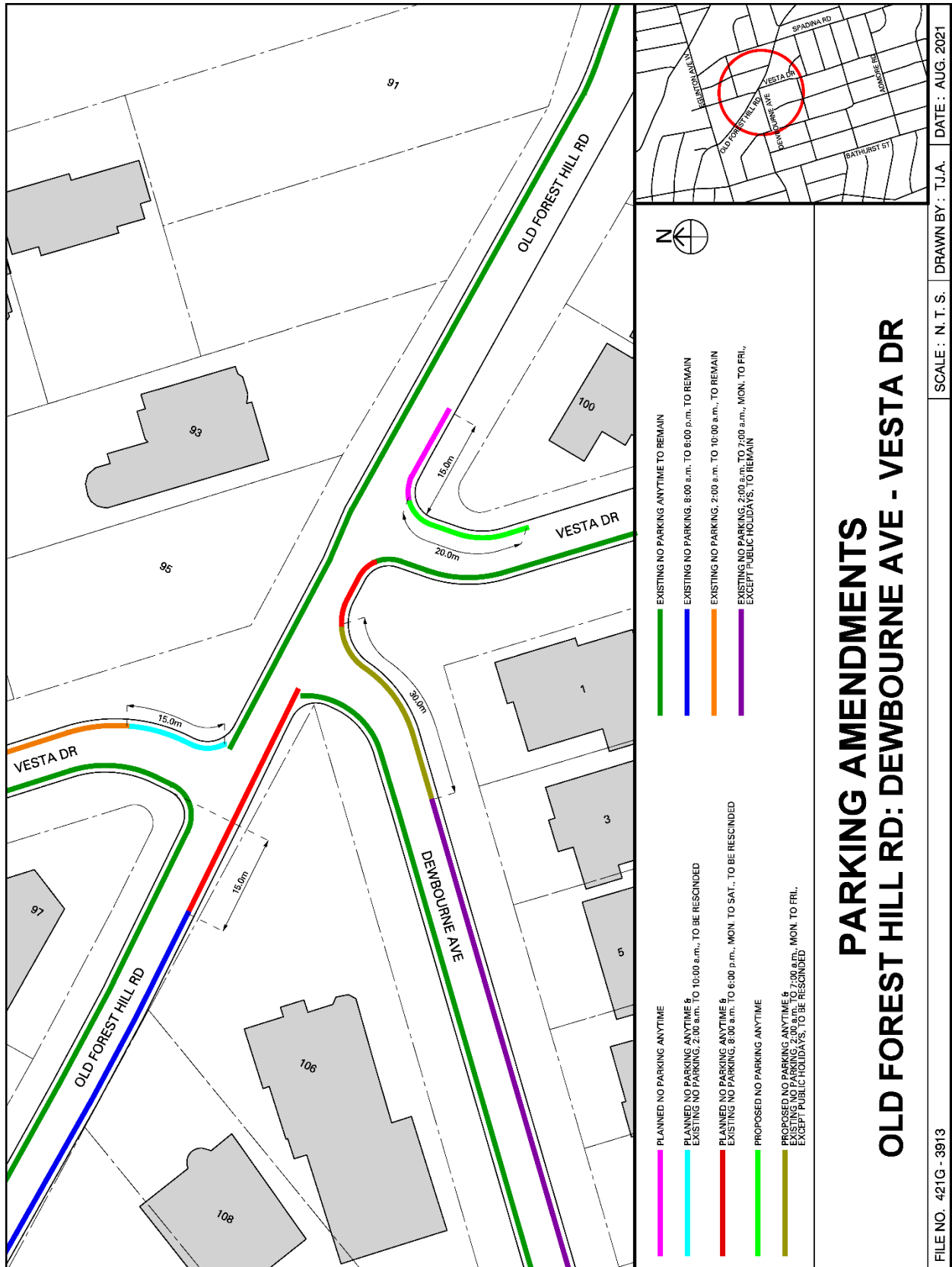
Jacquelyn Hayward
Director, Project Design & Management
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ATTACHMENTS

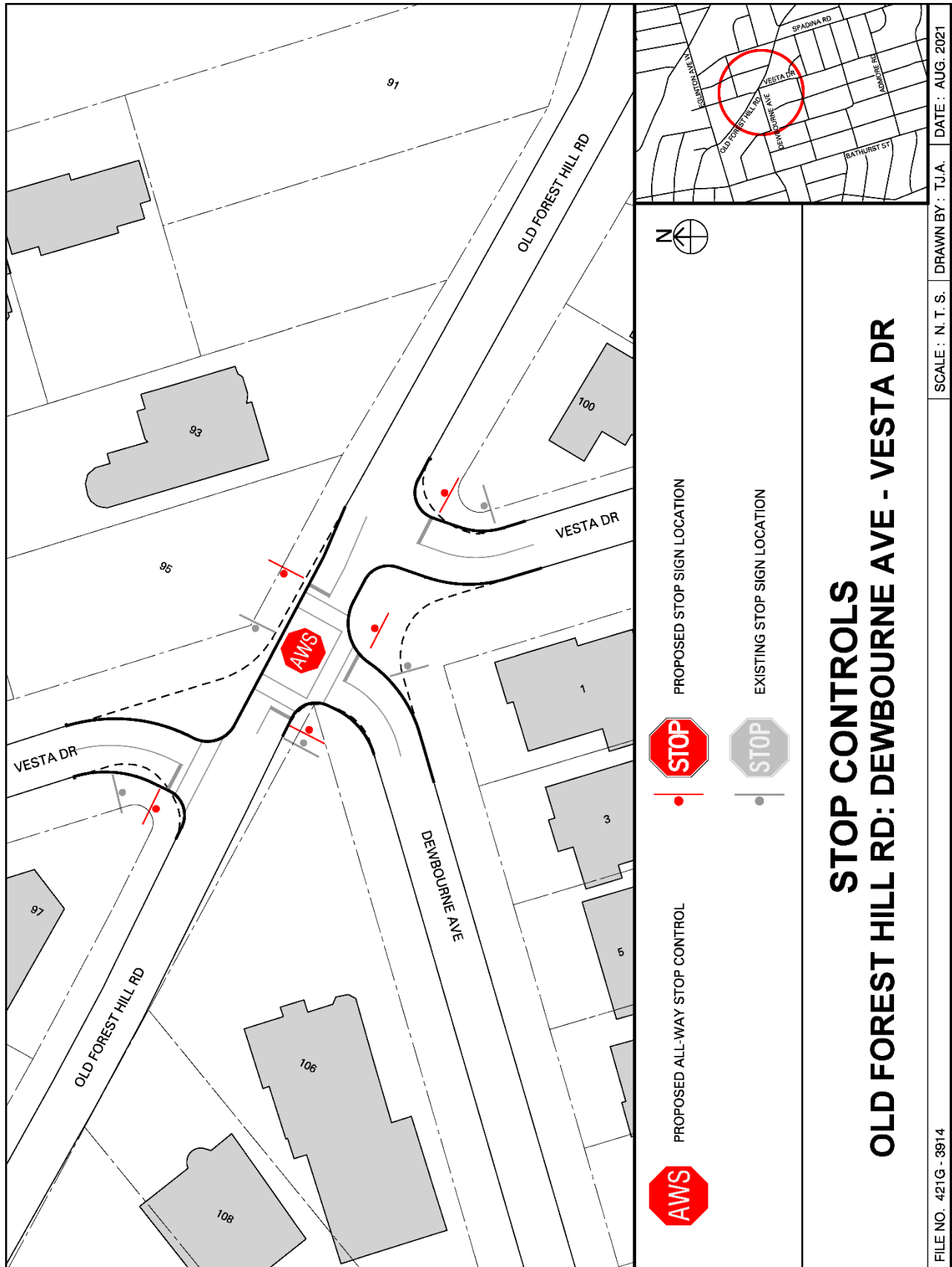
Attachment 1: Map - Parking Amendments - Old Forest Hill Road, Vesta Drive and Dewbourne Avenue

Attachment 2: Map - Stop Control - Old Forest Hill Road, Vesta Drive and Dewbourne Avenue

Attachment 1: Map - Parking Amendments - Old Forest Hill Road, Vesta Drive and Dewbourne Avenue



Attachment 2: Map - Stop Control - Old Forest Hill Road, Vesta Drive and Dewbourne Avenue



FILE NO. 421G - 3914 | SCALE : N.T.S. | DRAWN BY : T.J.A. | DATE : AUG. 2021

**STOP CONTROLS
OLD FOREST HILL RD: DEWBOURNE AVE - VESTA DR**