

Heavy Vehicle Prohibition Exemption - Renforth Drive

Date: December 10, 2021

To: Etobicoke-York Community Council

From: Director, Transportation Planning and Capital Program, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 2 - Etobicoke Centre

SUMMARY

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

Metrolinx's contractor West End Connectors ("the Project Co.") is responsible for designing and building the tunnel section of the Eglinton Crosstown West Extension (ECWE) project. The Project Co. is currently preparing the tunnel boring machine (TBM) launch site for the TBM arrival in January 2022. The tunnel launch site is located in the northwest quadrant of Renforth Drive and Eglinton Avenue West.

The TBM is expected to start excavation in Spring 2022 and complete in Fall 2024. The excavation is expected to generate multiple truck trips (17 truck trips per hour) over 12 hours per day. To minimize traffic impacts on the City road network, the Project Co. has identified a direct haul route to nearby Highway 401, which requires a temporary exemption of heavy truck prohibition currently in effect on Renforth Drive, between Highway 401 and Eglinton Avenue West.

The proposed haul route provides the shortest connection between the launch site and Highway 401 and minimizes impacts on the local road network and adjacent communities during the tunnel excavation operations. Therefore, this report requests Council approval for a temporary exemption of the heavy vehicle prohibition on Renforth Drive, between Highway 401 and Eglinton Avenue West to facilitate efficient and less impactful hauling of the excavated material.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director, Transportation Planning and Capital Program, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council amend the existing heavy vehicle prohibition in effect at all times on Renforth Drive, between Bloor Street West and Highway 401 to be in effect from Bloor Street West and Eglinton Avenue West, from February 6, 2022 to October 31, 2024.

2. City Council directs that Renforth Avenue be returned to its pre-construction traffic and parking regulations when the Eglinton Crosstown West Extension project is complete.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact to the City of Toronto associated with the recommendations in this report. Metrolinx's contractor, West End Connectors (the Project Co.) will be responsible for all costs related to the implementation of the haul route and any modifications to the signage and traffic signal timing.

DECISION HISTORY

City Council at its meeting on February 2, 2021, delegated the General Manager, Transportation Services, the authority to temporarily close to pedestrians and vehicular traffic highways or portion of highways for a period up to and including 365 consecutive days, until December 2030, inclusive, with the exception of those highways listed in Section 937-4 of Chapter 937, as required for the purpose of the construction of Eglinton Crosstown West Extension, and City Council exempt the General Manager, Transportation Services, in carrying out this delegated authority from Section 937-5 of Chapter 937, that being the requirement to notify the local Ward Councillor of the pending closure and the requirement to report on the proposed closure if so requested by the local Ward Councillor

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.IE19.10>

COMMENTS

The ECWE is a 9.2 kilometre long light rail transit line (LRT) providing connection between Renforth Station in the City of Mississauga and Mount Dennis Station in the City of Toronto. The Project Co. is responsible to perform the design and build works for the 6.2 metre long LRT tunnel.

The TBM launch site is located at the northwest quadrant of the intersection of Eglinton Avenue West and Renforth Drive with the site access from Citation Place on Commerce Boulevard. The launch site is currently being prepared for the arrival of the TBM in January 2022. As part of the site preparation work, the launch shaft excavation and piling and shoring work is currently underway. The tunnel excavation works are planned to begin in Spring 2022 and expected to complete in Fall 2024.

During the tunnel excavation, all removed spoils will be unloaded off-site using standard hauling vehicles via designated haul routes. The launch site will operate on a 12-hour shift schedule running from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. During the tunnel excavation stage, the TBM operations are expected to generate up to 17 truck trips per hour, which amounts to a significant number of truck traffic on the boundary roads.

The available haul routes from the excavation site to Highway 401 are via the Martin Grove Road/Dixon Road interchange and the Dixie Road interchange, which would result in additional noise and congestion on the City roads.

To reduce the impacts to the communities and the City's road network, the Project Co. has identified an alternative haul route to Highway 401 through the intersection of Renforth Drive and Carlingview Drive. The implementation of this optimal haul route would require an amendment to the existing heavy vehicle prohibition currently in effect at all times on the section of Renforth Drive, between Highway 401 and Bloor Street West.

Transportation Services agrees that the proposed alternative haul route is the most direct route and would least impact the communities including pedestrians and cyclists and the road network. Furthermore, the subject section of Renforth Drive was reconstructed in the past five years to the City's arterial road standards and is suitable to be utilized by heavy vehicles.

In conclusion, Transportation Services recommends that City Council approve a temporary exemption of the heavy vehicle prohibition in effect on Renforth Drive, between Eglinton Avenue West and Highway 401, from February 6, 2022 to October 31, 2024.

Councillor Stephen Holyday's office has been advised of the recommendations of this staff report.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Recommended Haul Routes for Launch Site

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Recommended Haul Routes for ECWE TBM Launch Site

Source: Metrolinx