

U-turn Prohibition - Underhill Drive

Date: May 5, 2022
To: North York Community Council
From: Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services
Wards: Ward 16 – Don Valley East

SUMMARY

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

Transportation Services is requesting approval to prohibit northbound and southbound U-turn movements at all times on Underhill Drive, between Cassandra Boulevard and Doonaree Drive.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council prohibit northbound and southbound U-turn movements at all times on Underhill Drive, between Cassandra Boulevard and Doonaree Drive.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The signage costs associated with the proposed amendments are approximately \$1000.00. Funding is available within the Transportation Services 2022 Operating Budget.

DECISION HISTORY

This report addresses a new initiative.

COMMENTS

Transportation Services was requested by the Ward Councillor, on behalf of Milne Valley Middle School, to review the feasibility of prohibiting U-turns on Underhill Drive in the vicinity of the school due to safety concerns.

Existing Conditions

Underhill Drive is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is a two-lane, north-south collector roadway
- It operates two-way traffic on a pavement width of approximately 10.8 metres
- The daily two-way traffic volume is approximately 9,000 vehicles
- The speed limit is 40 km/h
- There is a Community Safety Zone designated on Underhill Drive between Lawrence Avenue East and Hatherton Crescent
- Heavy trucks are prohibited at all times
- There is frequent TTC service provided by the 91 and 144 bus routes
- There are sidewalks located on both sides of the street

Milne Valley Middle School is located on the west side of Underhill Drive, between Cassandra Boulevard and Doonaree Drive. There is a pedestrian crossover (PXO) on Underhill Drive, in front of the main entrance to the school.

Observations conducted by Transportation Services staff on April 7, 2022 revealed five U-turns on Underhill Drive in front of the school during the morning arrival period (four northbound and one southbound). During the afternoon dismissal period there were 10 U-turns (seven northbound and three southbound). All the U-turns were completed by parents dropping off or picking up their children. In some instances, other motorists were required to stop for the U-turning vehicle in order to avoid a collision. Considering the traffic volumes and pedestrian activity in front of the school, U-turns are not desirable in this sensitive school area.

Proposed Changes

Based on Transportation Services review of this matter and consultation with the area Councillor, it is recommended to prohibit northbound and southbound U-turn movements at all times on Underhill Drive, between Cassandra Boulevard and Doonaree Drive. The proposed prohibitions will enhance traffic operations and safety in the school area.

A map of the area is shown on Attachment 1.

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

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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

ATTACHMENT

Attachment 1: Map - U-Turn Prohibition - Underhill Drive

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