

Diamond Lane Change of Use Update - Wilson Avenue

Date: June 10, 2022

To: North York Community Council

From: Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 6, York Centre

SUMMARY

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

Transportation Services is requesting approval to include bicycles to the existing "Diamond Lanes" - reserved bus lanes on Wilson Avenue, between Murray Road and Cornelius Parkway and Wilson Avenue between Wilson Heights Boulevard and Transit Road to enhance safety for cyclists when negotiating these sections of reserved lanes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council amend the existing southerly eastbound reserved lane designation in effect at all times for public transit vehicles on Wilson Avenue, between a point 195 metres east of Cornelius Parkway and a point 250 metres further east, to be in effect at all times for public transit vehicles and bicycles.
2. City Council amend the existing northerly westbound reserved lane designation in effect at all times for public transit vehicles on Wilson Avenue, between Murray Road and a point 357 metres west, to be in effect at all times for public transit vehicles and bicycles.
3. City Council amend the existing northerly westbound reserved lane designation in effect at all times for public transit vehicles and taxicabs on Wilson Avenue, between Wilson Heights Boulevard and Transit Road, to be in effect at all times for public transit vehicles, taxicabs and bicycles.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated cost associated with the proposed amendments is \$1,750. Funding is available within the Transportation Services 2022 Operating Budget.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on December 15, 2021, City Council requested the General Manager, Transportation Services to consider converting the Wilson Avenue diamond lane, between Transit Road and Wilson Heights Boulevard, to include cyclists and high-occupancy vehicles.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.IE26.10>

At its meeting on July 16, 2021, City Council requested the General Manager, Transportation Services to review the TTC-bus only diamond lanes on Wilson Avenue between Murray Road and Cornelius Parkway to considered permitting cycling, if deemed safe to do so.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.IE6.1>

At its meeting on April 10, 2012, City Council adopted item NY14.12 Lane Designation and Parking Meter Removal - Wilson Avenue, Keele Street to Dufferin Street and in so doing, designated reserved lanes for public transit vehicles only on Wilson Avenue, between Murray Road and Cornelius Parkway.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.NY14.12>

COMMENTS

Transportation Services was requested by the Ward Councillor, to include cyclist and high occupancy vehicles in the existing "diamond lane" reserved lane for public transit vehicles and taxicabs only on Wilson Avenue, between Wilson Heights Boulevard and Transit Road as well as to include cyclists to the existing "diamond lane" reserved lane for public transit vehicles on Wilson Avenue, between Murray Road and Cornelius Parkway.

Existing Conditions

Wilson Avenue is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is a four-lane, east/west, major arterial roadway, with sections containing a centre left-turn lane
- It operates two-way traffic on a pavement width of approximately 25 metres
- The daily two-way traffic volume is approximately 35,000 vehicles
- The speed limit is 50 km/h
- There is TTC service provided on Wilson Avenue

Diamond Lanes Change of Use Update - Wilson Avenue

- There are sidewalks located on both sides of the street
- Diamond Lanes for public transit vehicles are provided on 2 subject sections of Wilson Avenue.

A map of the area is included in Attachments 1 and 2.

Transportation Services supports the inclusion of bicycles in the existing Diamond Lanes on Wilson Avenue to enhance safety for cyclists when negotiating these sections of reserved lanes. However, staff does not support the inclusion of High Occupancy Vehicles (HOV) in the existing Diamond Lanes as the benefit would be marginal and would have significant impacts on TTC operations on Wilson Avenue.

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

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Maps - Diamond Lane Change of Use Update - Wilson Avenue

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