

Pedestrian Refuge Island - Ronald Avenue and York Beltline Trail

Date: June 10, 2022

To: North York Community Council

From: Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 8 - Eglinton-Lawrence

SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter that Community Council has delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision.

Transportation Services is recommending the installation of a pedestrian refuge island on Ronald Avenue at the intersection with the York Beltline Trail. The refuge island will enhance safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. North York Community Council approve the installation of a pedestrian refuge island on Ronald Avenue at the intersection with the York Beltline Trail, generally as shown on Drawing No. NYRD22-0029, dated June 2022.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated cost for installing a pedestrian refuge island on Ronald Avenue is \$32,000. Funding would be subject to availability and competing priorities within the Transportation Services 2023 Operating Budget.

DECISION HISTORY

On November 9, 2021 City Council adopted item IE25.22 entitled "Improving Cycling and Pedestrian Safety on the York Beltline Trail and Kay Gardner Beltline Trail" and in doing so, requested that Transportation Services address safety concerns where the two trails cross Ronald Avenue, Caledonia Road and Old Park Road.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.IE25.22>.

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COMMENTS

As part of the adoption of item IE25.22, Transportation Services was requested by City Council to address safety concerns where the York Beltline Trail crosses Ronald Avenue and Caledonia Road, and where the Kay Gardner Beltline Trail crosses Old Park Road. Caledonia Road is addressed through the report titled "Traffic Control Signals - Caledonia Road and York Beltline Trail". Designs are also being finalized for modifications to the intersection of the Kay Gardner Trail and Old Park Road to provide a cross ride at that location.

Existing Conditions

Ronald Avenue is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is a two-lane, north/south collector roadway
- It operates two-way on a pavement width of approximately 10 metres
- The daily two-way traffic volume is approximately 7,000 vehicles
- The speed limit is 40 km/h
- Heavy trucks are permitted at all times
- There is no TTC service provided
- There are sidewalks on both sides of the street

The York Beltline Trail crosses Ronald Avenue approximately 40 metres south of the signalized intersection of Ronald Avenue and Castlefield Road. There is currently no traffic control at the trail crossing. Many pedestrians and cyclists cross Ronald Avenue at the trail through gaps in traffic instead of at the signalized intersection with Castlefield Road.

Transportation Services staff reviewed the trail crossing to determine what improvements could be made to increase the safety of pedestrians and cyclists. Due to the 40 metre distance to the existing signals at Castlefield Road, a pedestrian crossover (PXO) or traffic control signals are not feasible. It was determined that a refuge island is appropriate at this location. It will provide a midpoint for pedestrians and cyclists to wait for a gap in traffic to complete their crossing.

A map of the area is shown in Attachment 1.

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

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Map - Proposed Refuge Island - Ronald Avenue

