

Tilley Drive Traffic Concerns

Date: April 4, 2022

To: Scarborough Community Council

From: Director, Project Design and Management, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 25, Scarborough-Rouge Park

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to respond to Scarborough Community Council's request that Transportation Services investigate measures to reduce the speed and volume of traffic on Tilley Drive that could be installed in conjunction with the Port Union Road Improvements Project (SC27.10).

Transportation Services is requesting approval to prohibit eastbound and westbound through traffic movements at all times of day, at the intersection of Port Union Road and Tilley Drive/private driveway (Ravine Park Plaza). The proposed traffic amendment would provide efficient traffic operation and reduce the potential for cut-through traffic on Tilley Drive. However, the prohibition will also prohibit area residents from going straight from Ravine Park Plaza onto Tilley Drive.

Additional measures to reduce speeds and cut-through traffic are incorporated in the Port Union Road Improvements Project and will include curb extensions (also known as bump-outs) at intersection corners, raised crosswalks, and cycle tracks setback from the street where possible at the majority of side street intersections including Tilley Drive. In addition, City Council recently approved a reduction to the speed limit on Port Union Road from 60 km/h to 50 km/h between Island Road and Lawrence Avenue East (IE26.10).

As the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates bus service on Port Union Road, City Council approval of this report is required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council prohibit eastbound and westbound through traffic movements at all times at the intersection of Port Union Road and Tilley Drive/private driveway (bicycles excepted).

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Funding for the installation of signage is available within the Transportation Services 2022 Capital Budget for the Port Union Road Improvements Project.

DECISION HISTORY

On December 15, 2021, City Council Adopted IE26.10, Cycling Network Plan - 2021 Cycling Infrastructure Installation - Fourth Quarter Update and the Future of the 2020 ActiveTO Cycling Network Projects that authorized the reduction of the speed limit from 60 km/h to 50 km/h on Port Union Road between Island Road and Lawrence Avenue East.

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

On October 15, 2021, Scarborough Community Council directed through SC27.10 that the Director of Project Design and Management, Transportation Services report to Scarborough Community Council in 2022 on measures that can be implemented on Tilley Drive in order to reduce speed (speed limit reductions, speed humps, traffic turning restrictions and straight-through prohibitions) that could be implemented with the widening of Port Union Road.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.SC27.10>

COMMENTS

Transportation Services received a petition from the Ward Councillor, on behalf of area residents, to investigate the feasibility of reducing the speed limit, adding speed humps, prohibiting through movements between the plaza and Tilley Drive, as well as a petition to examine closing the entrance to Tilley Drive from Port Union Road.

City staff do not recommend pursuing the road closure option because it does not conform to the Official Plan requirement to "protect and develop the City's network of streets and laneways and to ensure that the associated rights-of-way are not closed to public use". In addition, a full closure of Tilley Drive would require the establishment of a cul-de-sac or "hammer-head" turn-around for garbage trucks, winter maintenance, and emergency vehicles, and may require expropriation of residential property on Tilley Drive. Where permanent street closures have associated property impacts, a costly and

lengthy Municipal Class Environmental Assessment would be required to assess potential impacts, including those on adjacent streets.

The City of Toronto will be widening Port Union Road from Lawrence Avenue East to Island Road, with construction anticipated to start in 2022 and complete in 2023. Work will include the following:

- Addition of a second northbound lane;
- Widened and continuous sidewalks on both sides of Port Union Road;
- Raised cycle tracks on both sides of Port Union Road;
- Dedicated centre-turn lanes in some locations;
- Heavy trucks will continue to be permitted on Port Union at all times, and will continue to be restricted on Tilley Drive; and
- TTC bus service will continue by the 38 Ellesmere Road at Markham Road Bus.

Once complete, the Port Union Road Improvements Project will improve conditions for people walking, cycling, and driving, and better manage traffic flow.

As part of the Port Union Road Improvements Project, the driveway access of the Ravine Park Plaza is being moved to align with Tilley Drive to improve road safety, as was identified in the 2014 Environmental Assessment Addendum for the project.

Since 1987, there have been 27 reported collisions on Port Union Road (between Tilley Drive and Lawson Road). The intersection will be redesigned as part of the Port Union Road Improvement Project, to improve safety by:

- Removing the offset in the intersection, by aligning the plaza exit and Tilley Drive, in order to improve visibility and minimize turning conflicts;
- Increasing the distance on Port Union between the plaza exit and Lawson Road, so that drivers have more time to maneuver across lanes of traffic; and
- Creating dedicated left-turn lanes to allow vehicles to move out of traffic.

A map of the area is included in Attachment 1: Map - Port Union Road Improvements Project Location

Proposed Measures to Reduce Speeds and Volume of Traffic on Tilley Drive

Two measures are proposed to reduce speed and traffic volume on Tilley Drive:

- First, the north-south pedestrian and cycling crossing along Port Union Road at Tilley Drive will be a raised crossing with curb extensions as part of the Project Union Road Improvements Project. Curb extensions and raised crossings reduce conflicts, vehicular speeds, and pedestrian crossing distances, while also improving visibility of pedestrians and cyclists and sightlines for turning drivers. These measures were presented at a virtual public meeting on November 30, 2021.
- Second, staff recommend prohibiting the eastbound and westbound through traffic movements at the intersection of Port Union Road and Tilley Drive/Ravine Park Plaza driveway access. The proposed recommendation would provide safe and efficient traffic operation and reduce the potential for cut-through traffic by non-local

motorists. However, area residents would also be prohibited from going straight from Ravine Park Plaza onto Tilley Drive.

The through prohibition would be implemented once the Port Union Road Improvements Project work is complete.

Following the completion of the Port Union Road Improvements Project, Transportation Services would monitor conditions to determine whether additional appropriate traffic calming measures are recommended.

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: Map - Port Union Road Improvements Project Location

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