

May 26, 2022

Dear Chair and Members of Toronto and East York Community Council,

Re: Traffic Control Signals - Downes Street at Freeland Street and Downes Street at Cooper Street

In conjunction with the Lower Yonge Precinct EA and the 55 Lake Shore Boulevard East subdivision plan (and 1 Yonge subdivision), two central intersections are to be created within the six proposed blocks of development. These intersections are located along the planned extension of Downes Street, at Freeland Street and Cooper Street.

While the original Lower Yonge District EA did not define how these two intersections would be controlled, the plans for the new precinct will create new intensive pedestrian oriented uses:

- 5 blocks of mixed-use buildings
- a TDSB school to be located at the base of a residential tower – on the north side of the new Downes Street between Freeland Street and Cooper Street
- a new public park – to be located on the south side of the new Downes Street, between Freeland Street and Cooper Street

As such, the need to provide for a safe crossing option for users along this central corridor, including the school, (which will be using the park for outdoor space) is of critical importance.

City staff have worked with the TDSB to design a safe north-south crossing at Downes Street and Freeland Street by way of a traffic control signal, curb extension, and other enhanced pedestrian safety features.

At the intersection of Downes Street and Cooper Street, a similar condition is to be applied. There will be considerable pedestrian demand in all directions at this intersection. Given its proximity to the park (and the school), a safer crossing option is also recommended in the form of a traffic control signal.

As the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) will operate a transit service on Downes Street between Freeland Street and Cooper Street, this matter requires City Council approval.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. City Council authorize the installation of traffic control signals at the intersection of Downes Street and Freeland Street.
2. City Council authorize the installation of traffic control signals at the intersection of Downes Street and Cooper Street.
3. City Council authorize and direct that the design and installation of traffic control signals at Downes Street/Freeland Street and Downes Street/Cooper Street be co-ordinated with the development of the 55 Lake Shore Boulevard East subdivision to the satisfaction of the General Manager, Transportation Services.

Thank you,

Councillor Mike Layton
Ward 11, University-Rosedale