

Road Alteration - Dufferin Street

Date: October 27, 2023

To: North York Community Council

From: Director, Project Design and Management, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 8 - Eglinton - Lawrence

SUMMARY

Transportation Services is requesting approval, on behalf of the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC), to alter Dufferin Street from Lawrence Avenue West to the south side of Apex Road (260 metres) in order to provide a queue-jump lane for through buses. This action will also extend the current southbound lane for southbound right-turning vehicle traffic.

The proposed queue-jump lane on Dufferin Street will improve transit service reliability by allowing TTC vehicles (16 buses per hour southbound on Dufferin Street) to bypass general traffic at the intersection of Dufferin Street and Lawrence Avenue West. The change has been evaluated for benefits and impacts as informed by industry standards and criteria established by City and TTC staff for queue-jump lanes.

This queue-jump lane can be accommodated by minor widening on the west side of Dufferin Street by up to 1.8 metres, adjusting existing lane widths in line with the current City guidelines, and extending existing turn lanes.

These modifications will not result in the loss of any travel lanes. All current lanes will remain and the dedicated left-turn lanes will be maintained.

As TTC operates bus service on Dufferin Street, City Council approval of this report is required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council designate the westerly southbound lane on Dufferin Street between Apex Road and a point 30.5 metres north of Lawrence Avenue West as a reserved lane for public transit vehicles at all times.
2. City Council designate the westerly southbound lane on Dufferin Street, between Lawrence Avenue West and a point 30.5 metres north, for southbound right turns only at all times, buses excepted.
3. City Council rescind the parking prohibition in effect at all times on the west side of Dufferin Street, between Wilson Avenue and a point 18.5 metres south of Glencairn Avenue.
4. City Council prohibit stopping at all times on the west side of Dufferin Street, between Apex Road and a point 30 metres north of Lawrence Avenue West.
5. City Council prohibit parking at all times on the west side of Dufferin Street, between Wilson Avenue and Apex Road.
6. City Council prohibit parking at all times on the west side of Dufferin Street, between Glencairn Avenue and a point 260 metres north of Lawrence Avenue West.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

All costs associated with the alterations southbound at the Dufferin Street and Lawrence Avenue West intersection will be the responsibility of the TTC. The estimated cost to implement the proposed improvement is \$1.8 million with funding available in the TTC's Council Approved 2023-2032 Capital Budget and Plan under capital project account CTT063 - Other Service Planning.

DECISION HISTORY

This report addresses a new initiative.

COMMENTS

Background

Transportation Services, City Planning and the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) are undertaking a review of locations where it is operationally feasible to provide bus queue-jump lanes that also serve as extended right-turn lanes, and where the benefits in terms of travel time savings to transit vehicles are seen to outweigh the impacts to other road users, including pedestrians. The provision of these lanes, where appropriate, allows TTC vehicles to bypass general traffic at intersections and other locations, improving service reliability. The intersection of Dufferin Street and Lawrence Avenue West was identified as one such location.

Existing Conditions

Dufferin Street is an arterial road, with two through lanes in all directions approaching the intersection. Dedicated left and right-turn lanes are provided on all approaches, with the exception of northbound curb lane on Dufferin Street which operates with a shared through/right-turn curb lane. Current lane widths in the area vary between 3.5 and 3.8m.

TTC vehicles travelling southbound on Dufferin Street currently service a near-side stop on the north side of Lawrence Avenue West in a southbound right-turn lane, then proceed in through the intersection, before transitioning into the far-side southbound curb lane. The 29 Dufferin route operates with a frequency between seven and eight minutes during the AM and PM peak periods, respectively and the 929 Dufferin Express route operates with a frequency between 7-8.5 minutes during the AM and PM peak periods, respectively. This translates into approximately 16 vehicles per hour.

Southbound Queue-Jump Lane on Dufferin Street at Lawrence Avenue West

Dufferin Street currently has a planned right-of-way of 30 meters as per Toronto's Official Plan Map 3: Right-of-Way Widths Associated with Existing Major Streets. The proposed alteration will shift the curb on the west side of Dufferin Street by up to 1.8 meters and adjust lane widths to generally 3.3 meters for through lanes and turn lanes. These alterations will provide sufficient room to extend the existing southbound right-turn lane at Lawrence Avenue West back to the intersection at Apex Road.

The proposed alterations are shown in Attachment 1. As part of this work, the concrete sidewalk on the west side of Dufferin Street will be widened to a pedestrian clearway width of 2.1 meters, which is the current City of Toronto minimum standard.

Incorporating the far-side southbound bus bay at Apex Road into the new southbound queue-jump lane and extending it south to Lawrence Avenue West will provide a new continuous southbound lane throughout the area that will allow TTC vehicles to bypass traffic congestion, improving service reliability.

These designs have been developed with input from City Planning and Transportation Services staff. The proposed design represents an interim measure. City Staff acknowledges that the vision and goals of the Dufferin Street Secondary Plan will be pursued when Dufferin Street is reconstructed in the future or as part of redevelopment in the area. As all current travel lanes are to be maintained, no negative impacts to vehicular traffic are anticipated. If approved, this queue-jump lane is expected to be implemented by 2024.

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

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Proposed Road Alterations – Dufferin Street at Lawrence Avenue West.

Attachment 1 - Proposed Road Alterations – Southbound Dufferin Street at Lawrence Avenue West.

