

Compulsory Stop Control - Hazel Avenue and Balsam Avenue

Date: May 5, 2023

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

From: Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 19, Beaches-East York

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 requesting approval to install a compulsory stop control at the uncontrolled "T" type intersection of Hazel Avenue and Balsam Avenue. Based on an assessment undertaken, the installation of compulsory stop control is recommended to clearly define the right-of-way and enhance safety for all road users.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. Toronto East York Community Council authorize a compulsory stop control for westbound traffic on Hazel Avenue at Balsam Avenue.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The signage costs associated with the proposed installation are approximately \$250.00. Funding is available within the Transportation Services 2023 Operating Budget.

DECISION HISTORY

This report addresses a new initiative.

COMMENTS

Transportation Services has reviewed the feasibility introducing compulsory stop controls at the intersection of Hazel Avenue and Balsam Avenue.

Existing Conditions

The intersection of Hazel Avenue and Balsam Avenue is characterized by the following conditions:

- Both streets are classified as local roads with speed limits of 30 km/h
- Hazel Avenue operates two-way traffic on a pavement width of approximately 4.8 metres
- Balsam Avenue operates one-way southbound traffic on a pavement width of approximately 6.6 metres
- It is a "T" type intersection
- Heavy trucks are prohibited at all times
- There is no Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) service provided
- There are sidewalks provided on both sides of Balsam Avenue and on the north side of Hazel Avenue

The surrounding land use consists of single-family residential homes.

As there is no stop control at the subject intersection, the right-of-way is determined as defined in the Ontario Highway Traffic Act, which stipulates that priority is "given to vehicles already within the intersection or, in the event, two or more vehicles are approaching the intersection at approximately the same time, the Act requires the driver on the left to yield to the vehicle on the right."

As per Provincial guidelines, stop sign control may be warranted where three or more right angle or turning collisions per year have occurred over three years and other methods of reducing the collision experience have been considered and found to be inadequate. A review of the Toronto Police Service collision data for three years ending January 1, 2023, disclosed that no collisions have been reported at this intersection. Accordingly, stop sign control is not warranted.

Notwithstanding, the Provincial guidelines state that "the use of stop signs should be considered at intersections where the application of the normal right-hand rule or yield control would be unduly hazardous". Based on the current operational environment, the installation of a westbound stop sign on Hazel Avenue at Balsam Avenue is recommended to resolve any potential right-of-way confusion that may occur.

The installation of a stop sign will provide stop sign uniformity on the streets in this area, clearly define the right-of-way and enhance safety for all road users.

A map of the area is included in Attachment 1.

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

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Map - Compulsory Stop Control - Hazel Avenue and Balsam Avenue

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