TORONTO

REPORT FOR ACTION

Supplemental Report: Permanent Closure to Vehicular Traffic of the Blue Ridge Road Cul-de-sac Update

Date: February 20, 2024

To: North York Community Council

From: Deputy General Manager, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 17, Don Valley North

SUMMARY

This supplemental report is in response to a request from the North York Community Council to provide additional information on the feasibility of permanently closing the cul-de-sac on Blue Ridge Road.

Transportation concurs that general vehicular traffic should be prohibited from entering the cul-de-sac to address safety concerns related to erosion and slope stability at the west portion of the cul-de-sac.

Transportation Services recommends that the northerly portion of Blue Ridge Road, shown in hatching and labeled as "Part 2 on Registered Plan M-1846" in Attachment 1 to the report (February 2024) from the Deputy General Manager, Transportation Services, be designated as a pedestrian way. Establishing a pedestrian way will close this portion of Blue Ridge Road to vehicular traffic, except for bicycles and specified emergency service and/or service vehicles.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Deputy General Manager, Transportation Services recommends that:

- 1. North York Community Council establish and designate as a pedestrian way the northerly portion of Blue Ridge Road shown in hatching and labeled as "Part 2 on Registered Plan M-1846" in Attachment 1 to the report (February 2024) from the Deputy General Manager, Transportation Services.
- 2. North York Community Council amend Schedule B of City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 886, Footpaths, Pedestrian Ways, Bicycle Paths, Bicycle Lanes and Cycle Tracks, by inserting the Location Plan dated February 2024 attached as Attachment 1 to the report (February 2024) from the Deputy General Manager, Transportation Services.

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- 3. North York Community Council amend Schedule XXX: Heavy Vehicles Prohibited to City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 950, Traffic and Parking, to rescind the heavy vehicle prohibition at all times on Blue Ridge Road, between Sheppard Avenue East and the north end of Blue Ridge Road, and to insert a heavy vehicle prohibition at all times on Blue Ridge Road, between Sheppard Avenue East and a point 52 metres north of Howard Drive.
- 4. North York Community Council amend Schedule IV: Former City of North York Winter Maintenance Parking Prohibited to City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 950, Traffic and Parking, to rescind the parking prohibition on Blue Ridge Road, between Sheppard Avenue East and the north end of Blue Ridge Road, and to insert a parking prohibition on Blue Ridge Road, between Sheppard Avenue East and a point 52 metres north of Howard Drive.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated cost to implement the appropriate physical measures to designate the northerly portion of Blue Ridge Road as a pedestrian way is \$4,500. The cost of the proposed works is available in the Transportation Services 2024-2034 Capital Budget and Plan.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of November 14, 2023, North York Community Council deferred consideration of a Blue Ridge Road Permanent Closure Update Report (Item NY9.31).

Agenda Item History - 2023.NY9.31 (toronto.ca)

At its meeting of June 28, 2022, North York Community Council authorized the General Manager, Transportation Services to temporarily close the cul-de-sac on Blue Ridge Road and to bring a final report on the permanent closure of the cul-de-sac to North York Community Council by no later than the first quarter of 2023.

https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2022.NY33.63

Transportation Services staff prepared a report, dated February 4, 2022, recommending against the closure of the cul-de-sac to vehicular traffic. At its meeting of February 23, 2022, North York Community Council directed the General Manager, Transportation Services to develop a plan to close the cul-de-sac to vehicular traffic.

https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2022.NY30.31

At its meeting of November 4, 2020, North York Community Council directed the General Manager, Transportation Services to investigate the permanent stop-up and closure to vehicular traffic of the cul-de-sac at the northerly terminus of Blue Ridge Road.

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COMMENTS

As noted in the report titled "Permanent Closure to Vehicular Traffic of the Blue Ridge Road Cul-de-sac Update dated October 23, 2023, some City Divisions expressed concern with the permanent closure of the Blue Ridge Road cul-de-sac to vehicular traffic. However, Transportation Services' Asset Management staff raised safety concerns stemming from significant erosion of the reverse slope at the northwest corner of the cul-de-sac.

After further review, Transportation Services (Asset Management) staff have advised that, given the significant cost and time required to rehabilitate the upper slope portion, gabion wall, guide rail, and roadway curbside, a cost-effective strategy would be to either permanently close the cul-de-sac or relocate the guide rail further east to secure a stable foundation, leaving the upper portion of the slope in its natural state. The option that contemplates the relocation of the guide rail will narrow the cul-de-sac and is expected to negate the functionality of any potential turn-around facility.

Transportation Services recommends establishing a pedestrian way within the cul-desac at the north end of Blue Ridge Road. Designation of the subject section of Blue Ridge Road as a pedestrian way will restrict vehicular access with the following exceptions:

- bicycles
- ambulances, police or fire services vehicles or any other vehicles actively engaged in responding to an emergency; and
- vehicles actually and actively engaged in works undertaken for or on behalf of the City, the Toronto Transit Commission, or a public utility, including utilities providing telecommunications, energy, water supply or wastewater related services.

Staff do not support the permanent closure of the cul-de-sac to vehicular traffic because it would prevent all vehicular access including bicycle, emergency vehicles, and service vehicles.

Six residential properties have frontage on the northerly section of Blue Ridge Road south of the cul-de-sac (44 to 49 Blue Ridge Road). Access to these properties will not be affected by the proposed pedestrian way.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Ashley Curtis, Deputy General Manager Transportation Services

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Location Plan

Attachment 2 - Registered Plan M-1846

