

Traffic Control Signals - Parkwoods Village Drive and Combermere Drive

Date: March 13, 2024

To: North York Community Council

From: Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 16 - Don Valley East

SUMMARY

As the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates a transit service Parkwoods Village Drive, City Council approval of this report is required.

Transportation Services is requesting approval to install traffic control signals at the intersection of Parkwoods Village Drive and Combermere Drive. The traffic control signals will provide enhanced safety for all road users and are justified based on the assessment undertaken.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the installation of traffic control signals at the intersection of Parkwoods Village Drive and Combermere Drive.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated cost for installing traffic control signals at the intersection of Parkwoods Village Drive and Combermere Drive is \$180,000. Funding would be subject to availability and competing priorities within the Transportation Services 2024 Capital Budget.

DECISION HISTORY

This report addresses a new initiative.

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COMMENTS

Transportation Services was requested by the Ward Councillor, on behalf of area residents, to investigate the feasibility of installing traffic control signals at the intersection of Parkwoods Village Drive and Combermere Drive.

Existing Conditions

Parkwoods Village Drive is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is a five-lane, north/south major arterial road roadway
- It operates two-way on a pavement width of approximately 15 metres
- The daily two-way traffic volume is approximately 30,000 vehicles
- The speed limit is 50 km/h
- Heavy trucks are permitted at all times
- There is TTC service provided by the 95, 144, and 395 bus routes
- There are sidewalks on both sides of the street

Combermere Drive is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is a two-lane, east/west local roadway
- It operates two-way on a pavement width of approximately 12.7 metres
- The daily two-way traffic volume is approximately 2,100 vehicles
- The speed limit is 50 km/h
- Heavy trucks are not permitted at any time
- There is no TTC service
- There are sidewalks on one side of the street

Parkwoods Village Drive operates free flow while Combermere Drive is stop controlled at the intersection.

The closest adjacent traffic controls are located approximately 300 metres to the south at Victoria Park Avenue and 320 metres to the north at Gisburn Road.

A map of the area is included in Attachment 1.

Traffic Control Signals

To determine the need for traffic control signals at the intersection of Parkwoods Village Drive and Combermere Drive, staff rely on the justification criteria as outlined in the Ontario Traffic Manual (OTM) Book 12. The OTM justification criteria includes factors such as volume of vehicles and pedestrians, delay to cross traffic, and collision history. In addition to these technical justifications, staff consider an environmental checklist which includes consideration of road width, posted speed limit, operating speeds, adjacent land uses, pedestrian desire lines and demographics, presence of a transit stop, sight lines, and distance between existing crossing opportunities.

As part of the investigation, staff conducted vehicle and pedestrian counts on June 20, 2023 at the subject intersection. The results of the counts and collision hazard are summarized in Table 1. The "Collision hazard" criterion is based on the number of collisions potentially preventable by the installation of traffic control signals. Collision history provided by the Toronto Police Service for the three-year period ending September 30, 2023 disclosed there were two collisions at the subject intersection that were potentially preventable by the installation of traffic control signals. Neither collision involved a pedestrian.

Table 1: Warrant Compliance – Parkwoods Village Drive and Combermere Drive

Justification	Compliance level
Minimum vehicle volume	32 %
Delay to cross traffic (pedestrians and vehicles)	56 %
Collision hazard	20 %

To satisfy the installation of traffic control signals, one of either the Minimum Vehicular Volume or Delay to Cross Traffic warrants must be 100 percent satisfied, or both must be satisfied 80 percent. The Collision Hazard warrant is based on the number of collisions susceptible to correction by the installation of traffic control signals, and must be 100 percent satisfied. Based on the results shown in the above table, the technical warrants for traffic control signals are not met at the intersection of Parkwoods Village Drive and Combermere Drive.

In regards to the environmental checklist, staff noted the following environmental factors:

- the long spacing between pedestrian crossing protection on Parkwoods Village Drive;
- the presence of transit stops in both directions on Parkwoods Village Drive that attract pedestrians to cross;
- the pedestrian generators in the immediate area, including Victoria Park Collegiate Institute, that attract vulnerable pedestrians to cross the street; and
- the five lane cross-section on Parkwoods Village Drive, as well as the speed and volume of traffic using this street.

Also, a weekday eight-hour pedestrian volume and delay study was undertaken at this location on June 20, 2023. The study revealed that 89 pedestrians crossed Parkwoods Village Drive at Combermere Drive. This consisted of five assisted children, 39 unassisted children, 43 youths and adults and two persons with disabilities. Seventy-four (74) of these pedestrians experienced delays greater than 10 seconds to cross.

In considering the environmental factors and pedestrian crossing activity, Transportation Services supports the installation of traffic control signals at the intersection of Parkwoods Village Drive and Combermere Drive.

Other Considerations

It should be noted that the installation of traffic control signals will have the following additional impacts:

There is potential for increase in delays to transit service on Parkwoods Village Drive.

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 - Parkwoods Village Drive and Combermere Drive

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