

Road Alteration – Wilson Avenue

Date: June 20, 2024

To: North York Community Council

From: Director, Planning, Design and Management, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 6 – York Centre

SUMMARY

As the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates bus service on Wilson Avenue, City Council approval of this report is required.

Transportation Services is requesting approval, on behalf of the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) to alter Wilson Avenue (northerly westbound lane) from the Wilson Station Entrance/Exit on Wilson Avenue to the east side of Faywood Boulevard and in front of the development (480 Wilson Avenue). This is proposed in order to extend an additional 100 metres to the existing reserved bus lane west of Wilson Heights Boulevard and would create a continuous queue-jump lane of 420 metres. The addition of this queue-jump lane would tie into the modifications made to the roadway in front of the development at 480 Wilson Avenue.

This queue-jump lane would allow TTC buses to improve service reliability and travel time on Wilson Avenue by bypassing general traffic in the area. This would benefit approximately 370 daily bus trips and improve the journey times for approximately 62,000 daily customers. This proposal is supported by the City and TTC's established criteria for queue-jump lane warrants.

This queue-jump lane can be accommodated within the existing Wilson Avenue right-of-way by widening the roadway by up to 2.7 metres. All current lanes would remain including existing dedicated left-turn lanes. This queue-jump lane would also create a right-turn, buses-excepted lane westbound for right-turning vehicles at Wilson Heights Boulevard that did not exist previously. As per the City standard the queue-jump lane would be identified by a red paint application.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council rescind the designation of a reserved lane for public transit vehicles and bicycles for the northerly westbound lane on Wilson Avenue between Wilson Heights Boulevard and Transit Road.
2. City Council designate the northerly westbound lane on Wilson Avenue between Transit Road and Faywood Boulevard as a reserved lane for public transit vehicles and bicycles at all times.
3. City Council designate the northerly westbound lane on Wilson Avenue, between Wilson Heights Boulevard and Faywood Boulevard, for westbound right turns only at all times, buses and bicycles excepted.
4. City Council designate the northerly westbound lane on Wilson Avenue, between Transit Road and a point 30.5 metres east, for westbound right turns only at all times, buses and bicycles excepted.
5. City Council rescind the no stopping prohibition in effect from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday to Friday, except public holidays on the north side of Wilson Avenue between Wilson Heights Boulevard and a point 167.5 metres west of Belgrave Avenue.
6. City Council prohibit stopping at all times on the north side of Wilson Avenue between Wilson Heights Boulevard and Faywood Boulevard.
7. City Council prohibit stopping in effect from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday, except public holidays on the north side of Wilson Avenue between Faywood Boulevard and a point 30.5 metres east.
8. City Council prohibit stopping in effect from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except public holidays on the north side of Wilson Avenue between a point 100.5 metres west of King High Avenue and a point 167.5 metres west of Belgrave Avenue.
9. City Council prohibit stopping at all times on the north side of Wilson Avenue between a point 30.5 metres east of Faywood Boulevard and a point 100.5 metres west of King High Avenue.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

All costs associated with the proposed alterations westbound at the Wilson Avenue and Wilson Heights Boulevard intersection will be the responsibility of the TTC. The

estimated cost to implement the proposed improvements is approximately \$1.6m with funding available in the TTC's Council Approved 2023-2032 Capital Budget.

DECISION HISTORY

This report addresses a new initiative.

COMMENTS

Background

Transportation Services, City Planning and the TTC are undertaking a system-wide review of locations where it is operationally feasible to provide bus queue-jump lanes that also serve as extended right-turn lanes for general traffic. The provision of these lanes, where appropriate, allows TTC customers to bypass general traffic at intersections and improves service reliability and journey times. The intersection of Wilson Avenue at Wilson Heights Boulevard is one such location.

Existing Conditions

Wilson Avenue is an east-west arterial road with two through lanes in each direction approaching the Wilson Heights Boulevard intersection and an existing exclusive bus lane west of Wilson Heights. Dedicated left-turn lanes exist in both directions and a right-turn lane is provided on the east approach. Current east-west lane widths in the area vary between 3.5 metres and 3.8 metres.

The 96 Wilson, 160 Bathurst North, 165 Weston Road North, and 996 Wilson Express routes operate through this area with a combined frequency of every 2 to 3 minutes during the peak periods. Approximately 62,000 daily customer-trips are made on this corridor.

Westbound Queue-Jump Lane on Wilson Avenue at Wilson Heights Boulevard

The proposed alteration would widen the north side of Wilson Avenue by up to 2.7 metres within the existing road right-of-way and adjust lane widths to generally 3.0 metres to 3.3 metres for through lanes and 3.0 metres for turn lanes in accordance with the City's lane width guidelines. These alterations would provide sufficient room to extend the existing westbound reserved bus lane west of Wilson Heights Boulevard back to Faywood Boulevard. The road widening may impact the traffic control signal poles on Wilson Avenue and Wilson Heights Boulevard which would be moved to accommodate the widening. Red paint would be added to the existing reserved bus lane west of Wilson Heights Boulevard to Wilson Station Entrance/Exit.

The proposed alterations are shown in Attachment 1. As part of this work, the concrete sidewalk on the north side of Wilson Avenue between Wilson Heights Boulevard and Faywood Boulevard and 40m west of Wilson Heights Boulevard will be brought to a pedestrian clearway width that meets City standards.

Incorporating the existing westbound reserved bus lane west of Wilson Heights Boulevard into the new westbound queue-jump lane and extending it east to Faywood Boulevard and in front of the development (480 Wilson Avenue) would provide a new continuous westbound lane throughout the area that will allow TTC buses to bypass traffic congestion and improve service reliability and journey times.

The proposed designs have been developed with input from City Planning and Transportation Services staff. As all current travel lanes are to be maintained, no negative impacts to vehicular traffic are expected. If approved, this queue-jump lane is expected to be implemented in 2025.

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

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

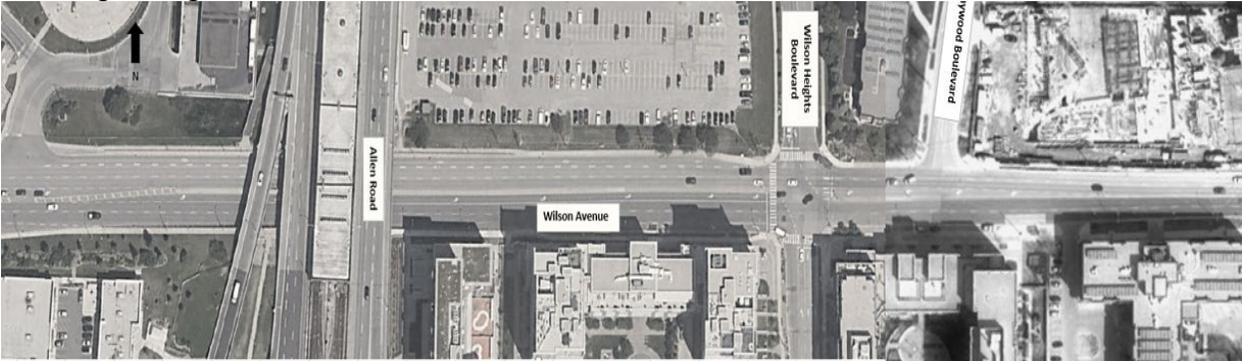
Jacquelyn Hayward
Director, Planning, Design & Management
Transportation Services

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Proposed Road Alterations – Wilson Avenue and Wilson Heights Boulevard

Attachment 1 - Proposed Road Alterations – Wilson Avenue and Wilson Heights Boulevard

Existing Design



Proposed Design

