

Traffic Control Signals - Vaughan Street and Wicksteed Avenue

Date: September 6, 2024

To: North York Community Council

From: Deputy General Manager, Transportation Services and Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 15 - Don Valley West

SUMMARY

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

Transportation Services is requesting approval to install traffic control signals at the intersection of Vaughan Street and Wicksteed Avenue. The traffic control signals will provide enhanced safety for all road users and is justified based on the assessment undertaken.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Deputy General Manager, Transportation Services and The Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services recommend that:

1. City Council authorize the installation of traffic control signals at the intersection of Vaughan Street and Wicksteed Avenue.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications associated with the adoption of this report as funding has been secured from the proponent of the 70 Wicksteed Avenue development for the new signal. The said funds including pavement marking and signage fees of \$15,394.60, traffic signal maintenance fees of \$113,200.00 and financial security of \$418,930.94 were secured through the Subdivision Application No. 21 120012 NNY 15 SB.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on July 19, 2022, City Council adopted Item [NY 34.3](#) which included City Council Decision item no. 5. B. iii and iv, where the proponent is required to enter into a subdivision agreement and register the Plan of Subdivision prior to the issuance of the first above grade permit. A recent Subdivision Agreement dated April 9, 2024 includes condition no. 47 where the community council report is required prior to the issuance of the first above grade Building Permit.

The City Council decision can be found at:

[Agenda Item History - 2022.NY34.3 \(toronto.ca\)](#)

COMMENTS

Transportation Services was requested by the proponent, Smart Centres, to investigate the feasibility of installing traffic control signals at the intersection of Vaughan Street and Wicksteed Avenue.

The development site is located in the former municipality of East York (Ward 15) along the east side of Laird Avenue and at approximately 183 metres south of Eglinton Avenue East. The site includes a commercial centre comprising of a series of new buildings ranging in size from 616 square metres up to 17,870 square metres with a total gross floor area of 19,995 square metres. Site access will be provided off Wicksteed Avenue, Vaughan Street, Parkhurst Boulevard and Vanderhoof Avenue.

Existing Conditions

Vaughan Street, between Vanderhoof Avenue and Wicksteed Avenue is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is a new proposed two-lane, north-south, local roadway
- It operates two-way traffic on a pavement width of approximately 8.5 metres
- The speed limit is 30 km/h
- Heavy trucks are permitted at all times
- There is no TTC service provided
- There are sidewalks proposed on both sides of the street.

Wicksteed Avenue, between Laird Drive and Vaughan Street is characterized by the follow conditions:

- It is a two-lane, east-west, minor arterial roadway.
- It operates TWO-WAY traffic on a pavement width of 12.0 metres
- The speed limit is 50 km/h
- Heavy trucks are permitted at all times

- There is TTC service provided by the 88 South Leaside bus
- There are sidewalks located on both sides of the street

Vaughan Street and Wicksteed Avenue will intersect to form a T-type intersection, with a proposed traffic control signal.

The adjacent land uses in this area are employment industrial, commercial residential and residential and residential apartment.

The closest adjacent traffic controls on Wicksteed Avenue are located approximately 175 metres to the east at Brentcliff Road and 240 metres to the west at Laird Drive in the form of traffic control signals.

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 Vaughan Street and Wicksteed Avenue, 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 would typically conduct vehicle and pedestrian counts and collision hazards. However, there is no collision history specifically at the said intersection as the extension of Vaughan Street is a new public road intersecting and terminating at the existing Wicksteed Avenue.

Table 1: Warrant Compliance - Vaughan Street and Wicksteed Avenue

Justification	Compliance level
Minimum vehicular volume	5%
Delay to cross traffic (pedestrians and vehicles)	80%
Collision hazard	0%

To meet the justification criteria for the installation of traffic control signals, one of the justifications must be 100 percent satisfied or both the minimum vehicular volume and

delay to cross traffic justifications must be at least 80 percent satisfied. Based on the results of Table 1, the installation of traffic control signals is not justified.

However, 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.

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

- The closest adjacent traffic controls on Wicksteed Avenue are located approximately 175 metres to the east at Brentcliff Road and 240 metres to the west at Laird Drive in the form of traffic control signals. Therefore, there is a long spacing between existing pedestrian crossings across Wicksteed Avenue.
- This facilitates overall improvements to the area transportation network as part of the broader Eglinton/Laird area redevelopment efforts.
- The proposed traffic signal has been the subject of coordination and cooperation between surrounding landowners that involved contributions of land (for the extension of Vaughan Street) and financial contributions towards infrastructure improvements.
- This provides enhanced safety regarding pedestrian access and circulation in the area by a dedicated, signalized crossing opportunity aligning with the City of Toronto's Vision Zero goals.
- People who have audible needs or who work or shop on the south side of Wicksteed Avenue and feel safer crossing at a signal, may require the protection of a signalized crosswalk or the aid of audible alerts due to a mobility or disability concern.
- The proposed signal is at the TTC bus stop at the intersection of Vaughan Street and Wicksteed Avenue.
- People who need to travel on the westbound 88 bus would be required to travel nearly a third of a kilometer at the absence of the proposed traffic signal crossing.

All civil work required as part of the installation of the new traffic control signals will be borne by the developer.

The TTC has been consulted and concurs with these findings. However, since TTC stops will be located at this proposed signal, TTC recommends that as part of this development, the stops are upgraded to the current city standards provided below.

[T-310.010-8 Bus Stop Landing for Standard and Articulated Buses \(toronto.ca\)](https://www.toronto.ca/t310-010-8-bus-stop-landing-for-standard-and-articulated-buses/)

Staff recommend the installation of traffic control signals based on the technical and environmental criteria including the long spacing between existing pedestrian crossing protections and the presence of pedestrian generators in the area.

Other Considerations

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

- In absence of the council approval, the developer will not be able to obtain the required building permits which will delay the start of construction.
 - There is potential for increase in delays to transit service on Wicksteed Avenue.
- The Ward Councillor's office has been advised of the recommendations in this report.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Barbara Gray on behalf of
Ashley Curtis
Deputy General Manager, Transportation Services

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

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Map - Traffic Control Signals - Vaughan Street and Wicksteed Avenue

