

Traffic Control Signals - Wilson Heights Boulevard and Joel Swirsky Boulevard

Date: June 2, 2023

To: North York Community Council

From: Director, Planning and Capital Program, Transportation Services and Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 6 - York Centre

SUMMARY

In the Final Report for the Allen East District Plan that was considered by City Council under Item No. NY25.6, a condition was stipulated which directed the Transportation Services Development Planning and Review Area Manager to conduct the necessary studies to introduce new traffic control signals at the intersection of Wilson Heights Boulevard and Joel Swirsky Boulevard, and report back to North York Community Council.

Given the most recent traffic data that is available, Transportation Services conducted a review of the need for traffic control signals at the intersection of Wilson Heights Boulevard and Joel Swirsky Boulevard. Based on this assessment, Transportation Services does not recommend the installation of traffic control signals at the subject intersection given that the required warrant criteria have not been satisfied.

Through future development activity in the immediate area, and within the Allen East District Plan lands, the Area 2 Development Planning and Review unit in Transportation Services will continue to monitor the Wilson Heights Boulevard and Joel Swirsky Boulevard intersection and new traffic control signals will be secured, when justified and warranted. Based on a review of the information contained in the City's Application Information Centre, applications for concrete development proposals within the Allen East District Plan lands have yet to be received.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director, Planning and Capital Program, Transportation Services and Director Traffic Management, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. North York Community Council not authorize the installation of traffic control signals at the intersection of Joel Swirsky Boulevard and Wilson Heights Boulevard.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact resulting from the adoption of the recommendation in this report.

If the recommendation in this report is amended and the installation of traffic control signals at the intersection of Wilson Heights Boulevard and Joel Swirsky Boulevard is authorized, the estimated cost would be approximately \$385,000.00, based on information received from the Traffic Systems Planning, Design and Capital Coordination unit of Transportation Services. The signal installation would be considered subject to availability of Capital funding and competing priorities.

DECISION HISTORY

Through the City Council decision for Item No. NY25.6 (Final Report - Allen East District Plan), the Area 2 Development Planning and Review unit of Transportation Services was requested to conduct the necessary studies to introduce new traffic control signals at the intersection of Wilson Heights Boulevard and Joel Swirsky Boulevard, and report back to North York Community Council. A link to the City Council decision is provided below for reference.

[Agenda Item History - 2021.NY25.6 \(toronto.ca\)](#)

COMMENTS

Transportation Services was requested through the Final Report for the Allen East District Plan (Item No. NY25.6) to investigate the installation of new traffic control signals at the intersection of Wilson Heights Boulevard and Joel Swirsky Boulevard, given current and projected development activity in the immediate area and within the Allen East District Plan lands. The Allen East District Plan lands are approximately 57 acres in size and are generally located south of Sheppard Avenue West, on the east side of William R. Allen Road. It is our understanding that full build-out of the District is expected to occur in 2031, or possibly later. While there are currently some limited active development applications near the intersection, there are none within the Allen East District Plan lands.

Existing Conditions

Wilson Heights Boulevard at Joel Swirsky Boulevard is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is a north-south minor arterial road that has a four-lane cross-section
- It operates with two-way traffic on a pavement width of approximately 15.5 metres
- Average daily two-way traffic volume is approximately 20,800 vehicles based on the most recent available data
- The speed limit is 50 km/h
- Heavy trucks are permitted at all times
- There is TTC bus service provided along the roadway through Route No. 104
- Sidewalks are provided on both sides of the street.

Joel Swirsky Boulevard at Wilson Heights Boulevard is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is an east-west local road that has a two-lane cross-section
- It operates with two-way traffic on a pavement width of approximately 8.5 metres that widens to approximately 12.0 metres near Wilson Heights Boulevard
- Average daily two-way traffic volumes are approximately 1,300 vehicles based on the most recent available data
- The speed limit is 30 km/h
- Heavy trucks are not permitted
- There is no TTC service provided along this street
- Sidewalks are provided on both sides of the street

There are currently no turn restrictions at the Wilson Heights Boulevard and Joel Swirsky Boulevard intersection. A "Local Traffic Only" warning sign is provided on Joel Swirsky Boulevard for motorists entering the roadway from Wilson Heights Boulevard.

The closest adjacent traffic signal controls to the Joel Swirsky Boulevard and Wilson Heights Boulevard intersection are located approximately 275 metres to the north at the Reiner Road and Wilson Heights Boulevard intersection

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 Joel Swirsky Boulevard and Wilson Heights Boulevard, staff rely on the justification criteria 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, 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 a signal warrant analysis for the Wilson Heights Boulevard and Joel Swirsky Boulevard intersection based on vehicular and

pedestrian counts that were obtained on September 28, 2022. The results of this assessment 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, as provided by the Toronto Police Service for the three-year period ending December 31, 2022. The analysis disclosed one collision at the subject intersection that was potentially preventable by the installation of traffic control signals.

Table 1: Warrant Compliance - Wilson Heights Boulevard Joel Swirsky Boulevard

Justification	Compliance level
Minimum vehicular volume	17%
Delay to cross traffic (pedestrians and vehicles)	32%
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.

According to the information provided in Table 1, installation of traffic control signals are not justified at the Wilson Heights Boulevard and Joel Swirsky Boulevard intersection.

In regards to the environmental checklist, staff completed an assessment and determined that there are no other environmental or external factors that would justify the need for traffic control signals at this time.

Given the aforementioned, Transportation Services does not recommend the installation of traffic control signals at the Wilson Heights Boulevard and Joel Swirsky Boulevard intersection as they are not justified based on the technical and environmental criteria that were evaluated. Transportation Services will continue to monitor the intersection and the need for the signal installation will be reviewed in the future as development activity proceeds in the area and within the Allen East District Plan lands.

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

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Map - Requested Traffic Control Signals - Joel Swirsky Boulevard and Wilson Heights Boulevard

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