

Heavy Truck Prohibition - Old Finch Avenue and Sewells Road

Date: January 31, 2024

To: Scarborough Community Council

From: Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 25, Scarborough-Rouge Park

SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter that Community Council has delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision.

Transportation Services is requesting approval to implement heavy truck prohibitions, to be in effect at all times, on Old Finch Avenue and Sewells Road. The proposed regulations are intended to prevent heavy truck activity within the Morningside Heights residential neighbourhood, as well as on the Sewells Road bridge and along the Sewells Road underpass. The enactment of the heavy truck prohibitions will also allow for enforcement by the Toronto Police Service under the Highway Traffic Act.

A companion report, titled "Heavy Truck Prohibition - Old Finch Avenue" outlines the required regulation for the adjacent street section with Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) service.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. Scarborough Community Council prohibit heavy vehicles at all times on Old Finch Avenue, between Morningview Trail/ Valley Centre Drive and Sewells Road (south intersection).
2. Scarborough Community Council prohibit heavy vehicles at all times on Sewells Road, between Old Finch Avenue (south intersection) and a point 255 metres south of Steeles Avenue East.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated cost associated with the necessary sign installation is \$300.00. These funds are available within the Transportation Services Division's 2024 Interim Operating Budget.

DECISION HISTORY

This report addresses a new initiative.

COMMENTS

In response to resident concerns, Transportation Services investigated the need for heavy truck prohibitions within the Morningside Heights neighbourhood. Through the investigation, it was also noted that heavy vehicles were utilizing Old Finch Avenue and subsequently traversing Sewells Road, accessing the Sewells Road bridge, over the Rouge River, and the Sewells Road underpass, beneath the Canadian Pacific rail line. Both the Sewells Road bridge and Sewells Road underpass have weight and height restrictions.

Existing Conditions

Old Finch Avenue, between Morningview Trail/Valley Centre Drive and Sewells Road, is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is a two-lane, east-west collector roadway
- It operates two-way traffic on a pavement width of approximately 7 to 7.5 metres
- The daily two-way traffic volume is approximately 3,800 vehicles
- The speed limit is 40 km/h
- Heavy trucks are permitted at all times
- There is no TTC service provided
- There are no sidewalks provided

Sewells Road, between Old Finch Avenue (south intersection) and Steeles Avenue East, is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is a two-lane, north-south collector roadway, south of the northern intersection with Old Finch Avenue
- It is a two-lane, north-south local roadway, north of northern intersection with Old Finch Avenue
- It generally operates two-way traffic on a pavement width of approximately 7 to 7.5 metres
- The daily two-way traffic volume is approximately 2,600 vehicles
- The speed limit is 40 km/h

- Heavy trucks are permitted at all times
- There is no TTC service provided
- There are no sidewalks provided
- At the bridge over the Rouge River, the road width narrows to 3.5 metres and a 4.1 metres height restriction is in place
- At underpass beneath the Canadian Pacific rail line, the road width narrows to 5 metres and a 3.5 metres height restriction is in place

The proposed prohibition of heavy vehicles on Old Finch Avenue, east of Morningview Trail/Valley Centre Drive, and on Sewells Road will discourage heavy vehicle activity within the Morningside Heights neighbourhood and reinforce the restrictions on heavy vehicles using the Sewells Road bridge and Sewells Road underpass. The prohibition will begin at a point 255 metres south of Steeles Avenue East to ensure heavy truck site access to a local business is maintained.

Under a "No Heavy Trucks" restriction, heavy vehicles may use a street prohibited for their use if the operator of the vehicle has a specific destination on the street to make a pick-up/delivery or has no alternative route to access a particular street to make a pick-up/delivery. The proposed introduction of a "No Heavy Trucks" restrictions within this community will now only allow those heavy truck operators who have a legitimate reason to use the roadway.

The Ward Councillor has been advised of the recommendations 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 - Proposed Heavy Truck Prohibition - Old Finch Avenue and Sewells Road

Attachment 1: Map - Proposed Heavy Truck Prohibition Old - Finch Avenue and Sewells Road

