

U-Turn Prohibition - McNicoll Avenue at Markham Road

Date: June 25, 2024

To: Scarborough Community Council

From: Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 23, Scarborough North

SUMMARY

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

Transportation Services is requesting approval to prohibit eastbound and westbound U-turns on McNicoll Avenue at the ends of the centre medians located immediately east and west of Markham Road. Transportation Services also recommends extending the length of the centre medians on McNicoll Avenue by 10 metres on the east side and 35 metres on the west side of Markham Road.

The proposed U-turn prohibitions and centre median extensions will address safety concerns and eliminate vehicle conflicts on McNicoll Avenue. Vehicles conducting U-turn around the centre medians on either side of Markham Road are creating unexpected and dangerous situations for motorists on McNicoll Avenue.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council prohibit eastbound U-turns at all times on McNicoll Avenue between Markham Road and a point 85 metres east.
2. City Council prohibit westbound U-turns at all times on McNicoll Avenue between Markham Road and a point 50 metres west.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated cost of installing the signs is \$500.00. Funding is available within the Transportation Services 2024 Operating Budget.

The estimated cost for the extension of the centre medians is approximately \$34,000.00. Funding would be subject to availability and competing priorities within the 2025 Operating Budget.

DECISION HISTORY

This report addresses a new initiative.

COMMENTS

Transportation Services was requested by the Ward Councillor to prohibit eastbound and westbound U-turn movements on McNicoll Avenue at the ends of the centre medians located immediately east and west of Markham Road.

Existing Conditions

McNicoll Avenue is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is a four-lane, east-west, minor arterial roadway
- It operates two-way traffic on a pavement width of approximately 19.5 metres at Markham Road
- The daily two-way traffic volume is approximately 19,000 vehicles
- The speed limit is 50 km/h
- Heavy trucks are permitted at all times
- There is TTC service provided by 102 Markham bus route west of Markham Road and the 134B Progress bus route east of Markham Road
- There are sidewalks located on both sides of the street
- McNicoll Avenue intersects Markham Road to form a four-leg intersection and is controlled by traffic control signals

The adjacent land use in the area is primarily commercial/industrial.

A map of the area is included in Attachment 1.

Proposed Turn Prohibitions

There are numerous businesses located on both sides of McNicoll Avenue in the vicinity of Markham Road which have driveways on McNicoll Avenue. Observations conducted by Transportation Services staff disclosed that multiple eastbound and westbound vehicles are making unexpected U-turns at the end of the medians, creating confusion for through traffic as well as vehicles entering and exiting the driveways.

Based on Transportation Services review of this matter, it is recommended that the eastbound and westbound U-turn movements be prohibited at all times on McNicoll Avenue at the east and west ends of the centre medians on either side of Markham Road.

Transportation Services staff is also recommending extending the existing centre medians located on McNicoll Avenue on either side of Markham Road by approximately 10 metres on the east leg and approximately 35 metres on the west leg of the intersection. The existing centres median are 75 metres and 15 metres in length on the east and west side respectively. This proposal will further deter vehicles exiting the driveways from making unsafe left turns. These median extensions would occur in 2025.

The proposed changes will deter U-turn manoeuvres, prevent left turns while exiting the driveways, enhance traffic operations and address potential safety concerns and potential vehicle conflicts for all road users in the area. This will also allow for enforcement by Toronto Police Service.

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

CONTACT

Dan Clement, CET, Manager Traffic Operations (Area 1), Transportation Services
416-397-5021 Dan.Clement@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

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

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Map - U-Turn Prohibition - Markham Road and McNicoll Avenue

Attachment 1: Map - U-Turn Prohibition - Markham Road and McNicoll Avenue

