



City Councillor
Dianne Saxe
Ward 11, University-Rosedale

Shaftesbury Avenue access to Yonge Street

Dear Toronto and East York Community Council members:

I am writing to you today to request your support in improving Summerhill residents' access to Yonge Street during the prolonged TTC elevator installation at the Summerhill subway station.

SUMMARY:

In 2022, the TTC blocked off one lane westbound lane of Shaftesbury Avenue in order to install elevators at the subway station. Transportation services marked the remaining (south) lane as eastbound only. As a result, Summerhill area residents have extreme difficulty exiting their neighborhood. They have no road access in any direction, except by accessing Yonge Street. Due to heavy bike and vehicle traffic on Yonge Street, it is very difficult for them to turn onto or to cross Yonge Street without a traffic light. The only traffic light serving the immediate neighbourhood is at Shaftesbury Avenue. The eastbound lane restriction makes this traffic light inaccessible to the residents and others attempting to leave the neighbourhood by car.

Transportation services advises that it is unsafe to make the remaining (south) lane two way. TTC advises that it cannot return the blocked (north) lane for community use, even though the lane is typically used only to park a small amount of equipment, and the project is expected to drag on for several more years.

In these circumstances, the Summerhill Residents' Association requests that the city make the remaining (south) lane of Shaftesbury Avenue westbound in the area where the TTC is occupying the north lane, and install a stop sign where it reaches the eastern edge of the construction site.

The letter of request from the Summerhill Residents' Association is attachment 1.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Toronto East York Community Council direct the General Director, Transportation Services, to convert Shaftesbury Avenue to one-way westbound traffic operations between a point 54 metres east of Yonge Street and Tacoma Avenue, until December 31, 2025 or completion of the TTC Easier Access Project at Summerhill Station, whichever comes first.

2. Toronto East York Community Council direct the General Director, Transportation Services, to temporarily reduce the speed limit on Shaftesbury Avenue to 20 km/hour between Yonge Street and Shaftesbury Place, until December 31, 2025 or completion of the TTC Easier Access Project at Summerhill Station, whichever comes first.
3. Toronto East York Community Council direct the General Director, Transportation Services to temporarily install a PXO Level II on Shaftesbury Avenue, approximately 90 meters east of Yonge Street, to be in operation until December 31, 2025 or completion of the TTC Easier Access Project at Summerhill Station, whichever comes first, on the following conditions:
 - a. A deposit will be required to be submitted to "The Treasurer, City of Toronto", in advance of the permit being issued. The deposit is required to cover costs incurred by the City, in the event the contractor does not provide a service that it must, as stipulated in the permit agreement conditions below. Upon completion of the construction project and return to normal operation, the unused portion of the deposit will be returned to the TTC.
 - b. The contractor will be responsible for the installation, maintenance and removal of the PXO by one of the electrical contractors pre-approved by the City's Traffic Systems Construction and Maintenance Unit. Maintenance levels specified by the City's Traffic Systems Construction and Maintenance Unit must be followed, to be in accordance with those followed by the City's Electrical Maintenance Contractor for the maintenance of the City's other PXOs.
 - c. The TTC must provide to Transportation Services a 7 day/24 hr contact name, phone number and email address, for the City's dispatchers to forward operational malfunction/complaints to. If the City's dispatcher is not able to reach the contact by phone to provide details of a malfunction/complaint, then the City's Electrical Maintenance Contractor will be dispatched to investigate and complete repairs and the City's dispatcher will send an email to document the malfunction call and their inability to reach the contact. The response and repair costs will be deducted from the deposit provided to the City.

Tuesday, February 20, 2024