

Traffic Control Signals - York Mills Road and Upjohn Road

Date: August 29, 2025

To: North York Community Council

From: Director, Enforcement and Streets Management, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 16 - Don Valley East

SUMMARY

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

Transportation Services is requesting approval to install traffic control signals at the intersection of York Mills Road and Upjohn Road. The traffic control signals will provide enhanced safety for all road users and are justified based on the assessment undertaken.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director, Enforcement and Streets Management, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the installation of traffic control signals at the intersection of York Mills Road and Upjohn Road.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated cost for installing traffic control signals at the intersection of York Mills Road and Upjohn Road is \$300,000. Funding would be subject to availability and competing priorities within the Transportation Services Interim 2026 Capital Budget.

DECISION HISTORY

This report addresses a new initiative.

COMMENTS

Transportation Services was requested by a local resident through 311 to investigate the feasibility of installing traffic control signals at the intersection of York Mills Road and Upjohn Road.

Existing Conditions

York Mills Road is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is a seven-lane, east-west, major arterial roadway
- It operates two-way traffic on a pavement width of approximately 27 metres
- The daily two-way traffic volume is approximately 34,000 vehicles
- The speed limit is 50 km/h
- Heavy trucks are permitted at all times
- There is TTC service provided by the 95 bus and stops on both approaches to the intersection
- There are sidewalks located on both sides of the street

Upjohn Road is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is a three-lane, north-south collector roadway that runs south from York Mills Road
- It operates two-way traffic on a pavement width of approximately 11.5 metres
- The daily two-way traffic volume is approximately 5,000 vehicles
- The speed limit is 50 km/h
- Heavy trucks are permitted at all times
- There is no TTC service provided
- There are sidewalks located on the east side of the street
- There is a community safety zone designated on Upjohn Road

York Mills Road and Upjohn Road form a T-type intersection. Upjohn Road is stop-sign controlled while York Mills Road is uncontrolled free-flow.

The adjacent land use in this area is a mix of commercial retail and institutional.

The closest adjacent traffic control signals are located approximately 90 metres to the west at Lesmill Road and 300 metres to the east at Don Mills Road.

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 York Mills Road and Upjohn Road, 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 conducted vehicle and pedestrian counts on October 16, 2024, at the subject intersection. The results of the counts and collision hazard 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. Collision history provided by the Toronto Police Service for the three-year period ending March 31, 2025 disclosed 11 collisions at the subject intersection that were potentially preventable by the installation of traffic control signals.

Table 1: Warrant Compliance - York Mills Road and Upjohn Road

Justification	Compliance level
Minimum vehicular volume	78%
Delay to cross traffic (pedestrians and vehicles)	93%
Collision hazard	73%

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 in Table 1, the installation of traffic control signals is nearly justified.

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

- the presence of transit stops in both directions on York Mills Road that attract pedestrians to cross the street;
- the pedestrian generators in the immediate area, including retail stores and restaurants, that attract vulnerable pedestrians to cross the street; and
- the seven lane cross-section on York Mills Road, as well as the speed and volume of traffic using this street.

In considering the above technical warrants and environmental factors, Transportation Services recommends the installation of traffic control signals at York Mills Road and Upjohn Road as it will provide enhanced safety for all road users.

Consultation with TTC

The TTC has been consulted and has no objections to the proposed traffic control signals. They propose removing the existing bus stops on both approaches to the intersection and constructing a new eastbound stop, just east of Upjohn Road.

Other Considerations

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

- There is potential for increase in delays to transit service on York Mills Road.
- Due to the 90-metre spacing to the existing traffic control signals at Lesmill Road, it is necessary to interconnect the signals so they display the same signal phase. This will prevent drivers from confusing the closely spaced signals.

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

CONTACT

Shawn Dillon, Manager Traffic Operations (Area 2), Transportation Services, 416-394-8409, Shawn.Dillon@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Mike Barnet, P.Eng.
Director, Enforcement and Street Management
Transportation Services

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Map - Traffic Control Signals - York Mills Road and Upjohn Road

Attachment 1: Map - Traffic Control Signals - York Mills Road and Upjohn Road

