

Traffic Control Signals - Pharmacy Avenue and Stellarton Road/Camilla Crescent

Date: March 16, 2026

To: Scarborough Community Council

From: Director, Enforcement and Street Management, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 20, Scarborough Southwest

SUMMARY

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

Transportation Services is requesting approval to install traffic control signals at the intersection of Pharmacy Avenue and Stellarton Road/Camilla Crescent. The traffic control signals will provide enhanced safety for all road users and is justified based on the assessment undertaken.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council authorize the installation of traffic control signals at the intersection of Pharmacy Avenue and Stellarton Road/Camilla Crescent.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated cost for installing traffic control signals at the intersection of Pharmacy Avenue and Stellarton Road/Camilla Crescent is \$250,000.00. Funding would be subject to availability and competing priorities within the Transportation Services 2026 Capital Budget.

DECISION HISTORY

This report addresses a new initiative.

COMMENTS

Transportation Services received requests from local residents to investigate the feasibility of installing traffic control signals at the intersection of Pharmacy Avenue and Stellarton Road/Camilla Crescent. Concerns were raised that this location is situated on a long section of roadway without traffic control devices, and with transit stops at the intersection, pedestrians are required to cross four lanes of traffic, creating potential safety concerns for area residents.

Existing Conditions

Pharmacy Avenue is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is a four-lane, north-south, minor arterial roadway
- It operates two-way traffic on a pavement width of approximately 12.5 metres
- The daily two-way traffic volume is approximately 11,000 vehicles
- The speed limit is 50 km/h
- There is TTC service provided by 67 Pharmacy bus route
- There are sidewalks located on both sides of the street

Stellarton Road and Camilla Crescent are characterized by the following conditions:

- They are two-lane, east-west, local roadways
- They operate two-way traffic on pavement widths of approximately 8.5 metres
- The daily two-way traffic volume is approximately 800 vehicles
- The speed limit is 30 km/h
- Heavy trucks are prohibited at all times
- There is no TTC service provided
- There are sidewalks located on both sides of the streets

Pharmacy Avenue and Stellarton Road/Camilla Crescent form a near-right offset - intersection. Stellarton Road and Camilla Crescent are controlled by stop signs while Pharmacy Avenue is uncontrolled free-flow.

The land use in the area mainly consists of single-family residential dwellings. Notable land uses include Clairlea Park and W.A. Porter Collegiate, located east of the intersection. The subject intersection is not within a designated Community Safety Zone.

The closest adjacent traffic controls on Pharmacy Avenue are located approximately 300 metres to the north at Knightsbridge Road and approximately 435 metres to the south at St. Clair Avenue East in the form of traffic control signals.

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 Pharmacy Avenue and Stellarton Road/Camilla Crescent, 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 January 31, 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 January 1, 2026, disclosed four collisions at the subject intersection that were potentially preventable by the installation of traffic control signals.

Table 1: Warrant Compliance - Pharmacy Avenue and Stellarton Road/Camilla Crescent

| Justification | Compliance level |
|---|-------------------------|
| Minimum vehicular volume | 28% |
| Delay to cross traffic (pedestrians and vehicles) | 44% |
| Collision hazard | 26% |

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 not technically justified.

Notwithstanding the numeric warrants not being met, in view of the potential safety and connectivity concerns in the subject section of Pharmacy Avenue, the four-lane cross-section, the pedestrian generators in the area, and the long spacing between existing traffic control signals, Transportation Services further considered the installation of traffic signals on Pharmacy Avenue for the following reasons:

- The long spacing between pedestrian crossing protection on Pharmacy Avenue (approximately 730 metres).
- The presence of transit stops in both directions on Pharmacy Avenue that attract pedestrians to cross the street.

- The four-lane cross-section on Pharmacy Avenue, as well as the pedestrian generators in the area, including Clairlea Park and W.A. Porter Collegiate on the east side of Pharmacy Avenue may encourage mid-block pedestrian crossings.
- Vulnerable road users requiring to cross Pharmacy Avenue may find this environment challenging. Installing traffic control signals here would provide a safe, designated crossing point and help consolidate multiple unprotected crossings into one controlled location.

In considering the above reasons, Transportation Services recommends the installation of traffic control signals at Pharmacy Avenue and Stellarton Road/Camilla Crescent as it will provide enhanced safety for all road users.

Given the offset intersection geometry, operational and safety considerations will be evaluated during the design phase so that the recommended traffic control devices address these factors while facilitating safe pedestrian crossings. Particular attention will be given to minimizing impacts on TTC operations and maintaining efficient traffic flow along Pharmacy Avenue, recognizing its role as an arterial roadway.

Consultation with TTC

The TTC has been consulted and raised no concerns with the proposed signalization. However, they noted that the northbound bus stop would need to be relocated further south, while the southbound stop can remain in its existing location.

Other Considerations

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

- There will be a loss of approximately two of parking spaces on Pharmacy Avenue associated with the installation of traffic control signals at this intersection.
- There is potential for increase in delays to transit service on Pharmacy Avenue.
- The signals will require the removal of one tree.

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

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Map - Traffic Control Signals - Pharmacy Avenue and Stellarton Road/Camilla Crescent

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