

## **Two-Way Operation - Charles Street West**

**Date:** March 16, 2026

**To:** Toronto and East York Community Council

**From:** Director, Enforcement and Street Management, Transportation Services

**Wards:** Ward 11, University-Rosedale

### **SUMMARY**

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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 of the rescission of the one-way westbound operation of Charles Street West, between Balmuto Street and Yonge Street, as well as associated parking amendments. The two-way conversion of Charles Street West is feasible and is supported by the community. The conversion will enhance the connectivity of the area road network and will promote slower operating speeds.

During the investigation, Transportation Services discovered discrepancies between the by-lawed parking regulations and the posted signage on Charles Street West. Recommendation 7 will rectify this inconsistency.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. Toronto and East York Community Council rescind the existing one-way westbound traffic designation on Charles Street West, between Yonge Street and Balmuto Street.
2. Toronto and East York Community Council rescind the parking prohibition in effect from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Saturday, on the north side of Charles Street West, between Yonge Street and Balmuto Street.

3. Toronto and East York Community Council rescind the existing maximum one-hour parking regulation in effect from 6:00 p.m. of one day to 8:00 a.m. of the next following day, Monday to Saturday, on the north side of Charles Street West, between Balmuto Street and Yonge Street.
4. Toronto and East York Community Council prohibit stopping at all times on the north side of Charles Street West, between Balmuto Street and a point 23 metres east.
5. Toronto and East York Community Council prohibit standing at all times on the north side of Charles Street West, between a point 23 metres east of Balmuto Street and Yonge Street.
6. Toronto and East York Community Council amend the existing parking prohibition in effect at all times on the south side of Charles Street West, between Balmuto Street and Yonge Street, to operate between Yonge Street and a point 32 metres west.
7. Toronto and East York Community Council designate a commercial loading zone to be in effect from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., on the south side of Charles Street West, between a point 17 metres west Yonge Street and a point 15 metres further west.
8. Toronto and East York Community Council authorize parking for a maximum period of one hour daily, on the south side of Charles Street West, between a point 32 metres west of Yonge Street and a point 9 metres east of St Nicholas Street.
9. Toronto and East York Community Council prohibit stopping at all times on the south side of Charles Street West, between Balmuto Street and St Nicholas Street.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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The estimated costs associated with the proposed two-way conversion on Charles Street West is as follows:

- \$60,500.00 for the bump out removal and replacement of sidewalks on the south side of Charles Street West at Balmuto Street
- \$50,000.00 for the modifications to the traffic control signal infrastructure on Charles Street West at Yonge Street
- \$8,000.00 for the signage and pavement marking modifications

Funding is anticipated to be available within the Transportation Services 2026 Operating Budget.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

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At its meeting on September 18, 2025, Toronto and East York Community Council adopted Item TE25.64 (Charles Street West Two-Way), requesting Transportation Services to evaluate reopening Charles Street West to two-way traffic between Yonge Street and Balmuto Street and report back to Toronto and East York Community Council. The Toronto and East York Community Council decision can be found at:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.TE25.64>

At its meeting on June 24, 2021, Toronto and East York Community Council adopted Item TE26.83 (Two-way Operation of Charles Street West between Balmuto and Yonge Streets), requesting Transportation Services review and report back to Toronto and East York Community Council on the feasibility of permitting two-way traffic flow on Charles Street West, between Yonge Street and Balmuto Street. The Toronto and East York Community Council decision can be found at:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2021.TE26.83>

At its meeting on November 14, 2017, Toronto and East York Community Council adopted Item TE28.68 (Two-way Operation - Charles Street West), providing the results of a review on the feasibility of permitting two-way traffic flow on Charles Street West, between Queens Park Crescent East and Yonge Street. The Toronto and East York Community Council decision can be found at:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2017.TE28.68>

At its meeting on June 14, 2016, Toronto and East York Community Council adopted Item TE17.113 (Request to Review Feasibility of Converting Charles Street West to Two-Way Traffic) requesting Transportation Services staff review and report to Toronto and East York Community Council on the feasibility of permitting two-way traffic on Charles Street West, between Queens Park Crescent East and Yonge Street, to improve conditions for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles. The Toronto and East York Community Council decision can be found at:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2016.TE17.113>

## **COMMENTS**

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Transportation Services was requested by Toronto and East York Community Council to review the feasibility of permitting two-way traffic flow on Charles Street West, between Yonge Street and Balmuto Street.

## Existing Conditions

Charles Street West is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is a two-lane, east-west, collector roadway
- It operates one-way westbound traffic
- It generally has a pavement width of approximately 10 metres, although the south side has been narrowed at Balmuto Street with a bump out to approximately 5.5 metres
- The daily one-way traffic volume is approximately 5,500 vehicles
- The speed limit is 30 km/h
  
- Heavy trucks are prohibited at all times
- There is no Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) service provided
- There are sidewalks located on both sides of the street

The land use in this area is residential and commercial. The section of Charles Street West, between Yonge Street and Balmuto Street, is approximately 100 metres in length. The intersection of Charles Street West and Yonge Street is controlled by traffic control signals, and the intersection of Charles Street West and Balmuto Street is controlled by all-way stop sign control. There is a driveway to 30 Charles Street West on the north side, just east of Balmuto Street.

The existing parking regulations on this section are as follows:

### North side

- Parking is prohibited, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Saturday
- One-hour time limit parking, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m., Monday to Saturday
- Maximum three-hour statutory parking at all other times

### South side

- Parking is prohibited at all times

There is also a signed commercial loading zone on the south side of Charles Street West, between a point 17 metres west of Yonge Street and a point 15 metres further west.

A map of the area is included in Attachments 1 and 2.

## Two-way Operation

As this section of Charles Street West generally has a pavement width of 10 metres, it can accommodate two-way traffic and maintain a parking lane. Accordingly, the conversion to two-way traffic is technically feasible and will enhance the connectivity of the area road network as motorists will need to take a less circuitous route to/from their destination. This proposal will also provide alternate eastbound route to access Yonge Street for the new development sites located at 1 and 15-19 Bloor Street West.

Additionally, this proposal will promote slower operating speeds, due to the narrower lanes for through traffic and the introduction of friction with opposing traffic flows.

The Councillor's office has advised that this conversion has the support of the community.

It should be noted that the proposed two-way operation will have the following impacts:

- It will increase traffic volumes on this street and introduce new potential conflict points between westbound motorists and traffic at the intersection with Balmuto Street and the mid-block driveway.
- It will require the installation of eastbound signal heads at Yonge Street and physical modifications on the south side of the intersection with Balmuto Street where it has been narrowed with a bump out.
- It will require modifications to the road alignment at Balmuto Street.
- Parking will be shifted from the north side to the south side of Balmuto Street due to the road alignment.
- It will not result in the loss of on-street parking spaces.
- It will require the removal of the westbound exclusive left-turn lane at St. Nicholas Street.

### **Housekeeping Issues**

On June 25, 2019, Toronto and East York Community Council designated the commercial loading zone on the south side of Charles Street West, between a point 17 metres west of Yonge Street and a point 15 metres further west, for a period of one year. This period has elapsed and this zone, though signed, is no longer supported by a by-law.

This commercial loading zone can be maintained as it has been paid annually and there will be two eastbound lanes after two-way conversion. Recommendation 7 of this report will maintain the commercial loading zone and make it permanent.

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

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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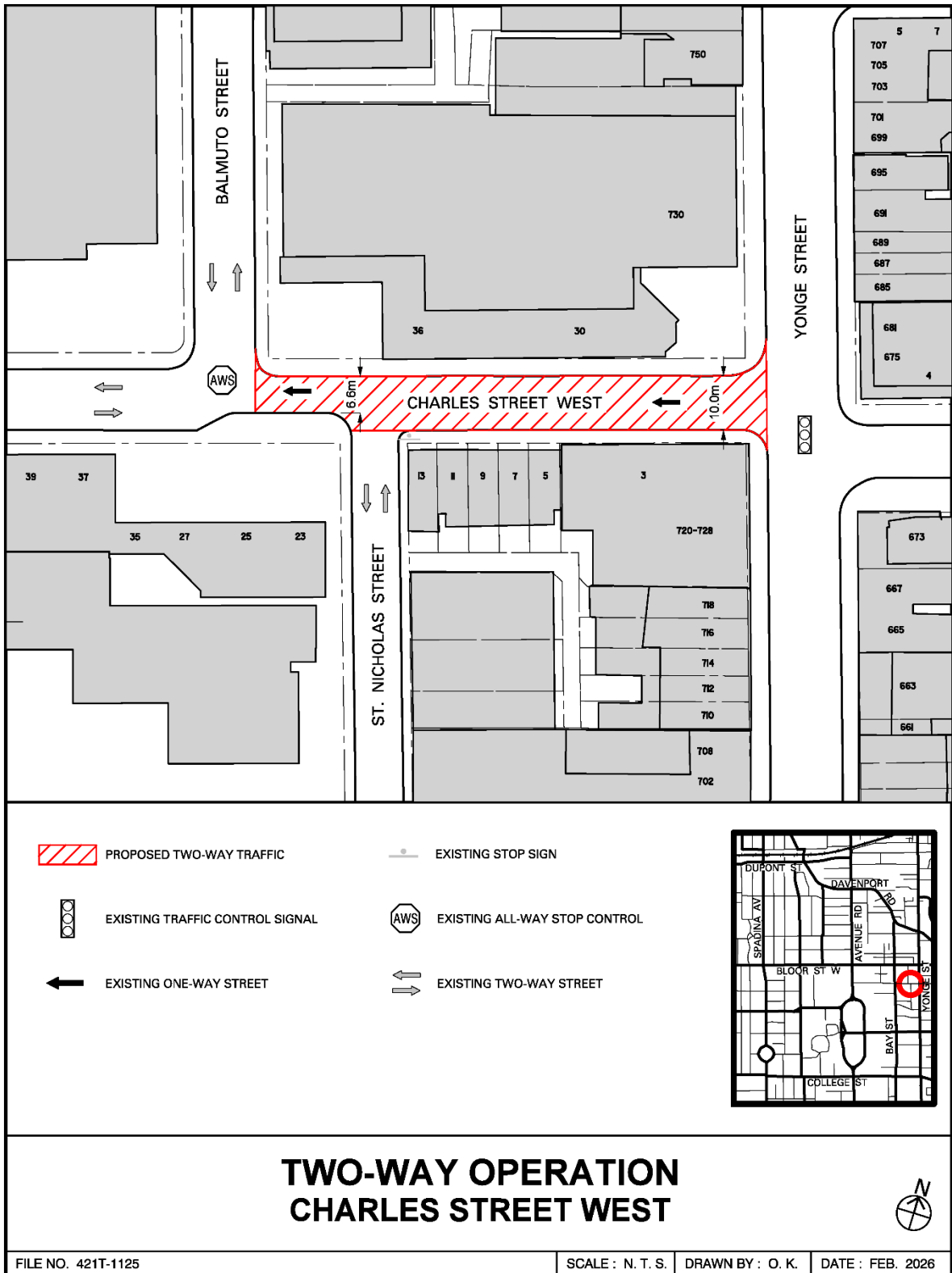
Mike Barnet, P. Eng.  
Director, Enforcement and Street Management, Transportation Services

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment 1: Map - Two-way Operation - Charles Street West  
Attachment 2: Map - Proposed Parking Regulations - Charles Street West

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Attachment 2: Map - Proposed Parking Regulations - Charles Street West

