

Parking Amendments - Farquhars Lane

Date: June 18, 2026

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

From: Acting Deputy General Manager, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 13 - Toronto Centre

SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter that Community Council has delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision.

Transportation Services has received complaints about illegal parking in Farquhars Lane, which impedes orderly movement of pedestrians and motor vehicles in the laneway. In consultation with the Old Town Business Improvement Association, Transportation Services is recommending installation of a Commercial Loading Zone in Farquhars Lane and that "No Stopping" prohibitions be added on both sides elsewhere in the laneway, between The Esplanade and Front Street.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Acting Deputy General Manager, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. Toronto and East York Community Council designate a Commercial Loading Zone to be in affect at all times on the west side of Farquhars Lane between a point 65 metres north of The Esplanade and a point 45 metres further north.
2. Toronto and East York Community Council prohibit stopping at all times in the following locations:
 - a. On the west side of Farquhars Lane between The Esplanade and a point 65 metres north;
 - b. On the west side of Farquhars Lane between a point 110 metres north of The Esplanade and Front Street East; and
 - c. On the east side of Farquhars Lane between The Esplanade and Front Street East.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

All costs associated with the necessary signage changes are included in the Transportation Services 2026 Operating Budget.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on December 15, 16 and 17, 2021, City Council adopted item IE26.10 - Cycling Network Plan - 2021 Cycling Infrastructure Installation - Fourth Quarter Update and the Future of the 2020 ActiveTO Cycling Network Projects. This item included a technical amendment associated with The Esplanade-Mill Street Connection project to convert Farquhars Lane to from two-way to one-way northbound between Front Street East and a point 62 metres south of Front Street East.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2021.IE26.10>

COMMENTS

Transportation Services has received complaints from the Old Town Business Improvement Association (Old Town BIA) about illegal parking in Farquhars Lane between The Esplanade and Front Street East, which impedes orderly movement of pedestrians and motor vehicles in the laneway.

Concerns about traffic infiltration and circulation were initially raised by the Old Town BIA during design and implementation of The Esplanade-Mill Street Connection project in 2021. In order to address these concerns and improve safety of pedestrians and motor vehicles in the laneway, the northern portion of Farquhars Lane was converted to one-way northbound, as approved by City Council in December 2021 ([2021.IE26.10](https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2021.IE26.10)). At that time, "No Parking" signs were also installed on both sides the laneway between The Esplanade and Front Street East, in line with general stopping and parking regulations outlined in Subsection (12) of §950-400E of City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 950, Traffic and Parking, which prohibits parking on a public laneway with a width of six (6) metres or less, when authorized signs to that effect are displayed.

While the changes outlined above improved traffic infiltration and circulation within Farquhars Lane, illegal parking in the laneway remains a concern. As the laneway is used for commercial loading for nearby businesses, designation of a Commercial Loading Zone is recommended on the west side of Farquhars Lane in the northern section, where active loading and unloading will not impede orderly movement of pedestrian and motor vehicle traffic due to its current one-way northbound configuration. In addition, Transportation Services recommends that parking, standing, and stopping on both sides Farquhars Lane between The Esplanade and Front Street East be prohibited otherwise.

A map of the area and proposed Commercial Loading Zone is included in Attachment 1.

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

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Gregg Loane
Acting Deputy General Manager, Transportation Services

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Map - Farquhars Lane: Proposed

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