

Road Alterations - Victoria Street and Shuter Street

Date: March 29, 2017
To: Toronto and East York Community Council
From: Director, Public Realm Section, Transportation Services
Acting Director, Toronto & East York District, Transportation Services
Wards: Ward 27 - Toronto Centre-Rosedale

SUMMARY

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

Transportation Services is reporting the opportunity to enhance pedestrian safety and improve the public realm along Victoria Street from Dundas Street to Queen Street and along Shuter Street from Victoria Street to Yonge Street. The proposed work will improve pedestrian safety by reducing crossing distances and provide additional sidewalk capacity at the intersections of Shuter Street with both Victoria Street and Yonge Street.

The proposed changes are being undertaken in conjunction with a scheduled road resurfacing and TTC track repair and will enhance the safety and operation for all road users. The work is also being coordinated with the pedestrian improvements scheduled to be completed later this year at the corner of Dundas Street and Victoria Street.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Directors of the Public Realm Section and the Toronto & East York District, Transportation Services recommend that:

1. City Council approve the alteration of Victoria Street from Dundas Street to south of Shuter Street and Shuter Street from Yonge Street to east of Victoria Street, generally as shown in Attachment 1 – Drawing No. TS-PR 2017-001 dated March 14 2017.
2. City Council approve the alteration of the sidewalk along the west side of Victoria Street to remove the layby and adjust the parking regulations to allow curb side loading to replace the layby function, generally as shown in Attachment 1 – Drawing No. TS-PR 2017-001 dated March 14, 2017.

3. City Council prohibit eastbound to northbound and westbound to southbound left-turn movements between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

4. City Council prohibit parking at all times on the west side of Victoria Street between Shuter Street and a point 15.2 metres north.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

All costs associated with the alterations are funded by the Downtown Yonge BIA, Economic Development & Culture Division (BIA Office) and Transportation Services Division.

There is no impact on the configuration of parking managed by the Toronto Parking Authority.

DECISION HISTORY

This report addresses a new initiative.

COMMENTS

The intersection of Victoria Street and Shuter Street was used as a pilot site to test accessibility devices (tactile walking surface indicators) which have now been adopted as the City standard for intersection design.

The Public Realm Section, Transportation Services is working with the Downtown Yonge BIA and Economic Development & Culture Division (BIA Office) to make enhancements to the right-of-way in conjunction with TTC track rehabilitation and Transportation Division state of good repair projects. These modifications include minor widening of the sidewalks along Shuter Street to align with recent approvals associated with St. Michael's Hospital redevelopment and the removal of the layby for the Pantages Hotel and Condominium.

The Downtown Yonge BIA has wanted to make enhancements along this corridor for number of years and is working with local businesses and institutions including Massey Hall, Ed Mirvish Theatre, St. Michael's Hospital and Ryerson University to realize these proposed improvements.

Recent modifications to the cycling infrastructure on Shuter Street completed in the fall of 2016 have facilitated further improvements along the southern frontage of St. Michael's Hospital, i.e. Shuter Street from Victoria Street to Bond Street. The new design incorporates short-term stopping for Emergency Medical Services vehicles and a patient drop-off in front of the new facility planned for the east portion of the site. Curb

extensions have been constructed at the corners of Victoria Street and Bond Street to improve pedestrian safety.

The proposed sidewalk widenings on Shuter Street from Yonge Street to east of Victoria Street respond to and align with the recent changes to the west in front of St. Michael's Hospital. On the south side, the sidewalk modifications will address the lack of space for pedestrians at the corner of Yonge Street and Shuter Street and provide additional sidewalk capacity while maintaining continuous bike lanes in both directions. The design also creates a new forecourt in front of Massey Hall. The north sidewalk adjustments will address current pedestrian clearway issues, resulting from the summer patio installation. This modification is relatively minor and will benefit all user groups.

Traffic Operations staff will monitor traffic volumes at the Shuter Street/Victoria Street intersection to assess the impact resulting from the implementation of turn restrictions and curb adjustments. In the event this review determines traffic volumes have increased significantly, further traffic control or signal timing measures may be considered.

The existing layby in front of the Pantages Hotel and Condominium results in a narrow (sub-standard width) sidewalk at exactly the location where multiple pedestrian movements converge including residents, their guests, hotel patrons (some with luggage) entering/exiting the building or getting in/out of taxicabs. Currently the pedestrian clearway diverts onto private property to provide a continuous sidewalk. The removal of the layby will allow the sidewalk to be widening by about 3 metres at this location, reducing pedestrian congestion and conflicts and improving hotel and condominium-related operations while maintaining the loading/unloading function provided by the layby. The removal of the layby will also increase the curbside storage capacity by one car length due to the removal of the transition areas.

Overall, these curb adjustments will:

- Allow cycling infrastructure to be maintained.
- Improve pedestrian safety by reducing crossing distances and increasing pedestrian space at intersections.
- Increase flexibility to adjust signal timing.
- Improve the public gathering space in front of Massey Hall which is currently under revitalization and plans to further enhance the streetscape.
- Allow the BIA to make improvements to the sidewalks with consistent banding and tree infrastructure improvements.

Minor changes to the bylaws are required as a result of this transformation. The removal of the layby and the curb extension along Shuter Street will increase the length of Schedule XV – parking for restricted periods from 22.3 metres to 22.9 metres north of Shuter Street

The parking prohibition on the west side of Victoria Street would also need to be changed to prohibit parking at all times, between Shuter Street and a point 15.2 metres north.

Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam has been advised of the recommendations of this staff report.

CONTACT

Mark Van Elsberg
Project Manager
Public Realm Section
Transportation Services
Tel: 416-397-4863
Email: Mark.vanElsberg@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Elyse Parker, Director
Public Realm Section
Transportation Services

Dave Twaddle, Acting Director
Toronto & East York District
Transportation Services

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Drawing No. TS-PR 2017-001 – Shuter Street and Victoria Street Road Alterations

Drawing No. TS-PR 2017-001 – Shuter Street and Victoria Street Road Alterations

