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February 9, 2012

Councillor Ana Bailão  
Ward 18-Davenport  
100 Queen St. W., Suite C42  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Councillor Bailão:

**Re: Accessible Loading/Unloading Zone – 1173/1175 Bloor Street West**

This letter is in reply to your request to investigate the feasibility of installing pavement markings to augment the current signage denoting an on-street accessible loading/unloading zone on the south side of Bloor Street West in front of Nos. 1173 and 1175.

By way of background, the Music Therapy Centre (1175 Bloor Street West) and Safehaven (1173 Bloor Street West), by e-mail dated July 12, 2007 to the local Councillor, requested the installation of an accessible loading/unloading zone in front of their businesses to serve their clients transported by WheelTrans. Staff prepared a report dated January 24, 2008 recommending a then-existing accessible loading/unloading zone fronting Nos. 1179 and 1183 Bloor Street West no longer in use, be relocated further east to serve Music Therapy Centre and Safehaven. Toronto and East York Community Council at its meeting of February 12, 2008, adopted staff's recommendation (Item TE13.49). Signage was introduced in March 2008.

Please be advised staff have contacted Music Therapy Centre to confirm the need for the accessible loading/unloading zone and were advised that this accessible loading/unloading zone is being utilized on a daily basis.

We reviewed the feasibility of improving the signage and/or providing pavement markings to discourage misuse of the accessible loading/unloading zone. While the disabled "No Standing" prohibition signage is clearly visible and appropriately placed, the following actions have been/will be taken to augment the visibility of the space: staff have installed a "pay-and-display" single right arrow sign on the existing sign pole at the westerly limit of the accessible loading/unloading zone (see attached photo DSCF-1896) to visually clarify the end of the "pay-and-display" parking and commencement of the accessible loading/unloading zone; in addition our Traffic Signs and Pavement Markings section has been requested to install parking stall border markings on the road to denote the end and commencement of the "pay-and-display" parking areas, east and west of the accessible loading/unloading zone. These markings will be installed as part of the 2012 Pavement Marking Contract, which is scheduled to run from April through to October.

With respect to painting the curb, I note that during the period after amalgamation, some of the former municipalities did use this measure in various instances. However, none had a consistent, systematic program and thus, the painting was done on an entirely ad-hoc basis. Several years ago, this activity was eliminated in a round of budget reductions. Accordingly, at the present time, there is no funding or authority to staff to re-introduce painting of curbs.

I also note that while it may seem like a minimal cost for one location, there are in the order of 900 accessible on-street parking spaces city-wide. As you know, these types of spaces are constantly being established and removed (standing Community Council item). As well, we have been requested to consider curb painting to delineate other forms of parking prohibitions (fire hydrants, driveways, No Stopping zones, etc.). Finally, another important factor to

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keep in mind is that in accordance with applicable regulation, it is the signage that provides legal enforcement authority, not the pavement markings.

As you know, City Council, at its meeting of October 24 and 25, 2011, in considering Item MM13.5 - Accessible Parking Permits, among other things, directed appropriate staff to report on improving regulations, exemptions and enforcement associated with Accessible Parking Permits. We will be including a discussion and recommendation with regard to curb painting in the upcoming report for Committee's and Council's consideration and direction.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please feel free to contact Stephen C. Brown, at (416) 392-5202.

Yours truly,

Jacqueline White, P. Eng.  
Manager, Traffic Operations  
Toronto and East York District

SCB/cag  
Attach: Photo, DSCF-1896  
SR# 4549307