

# TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION REPORT NO.

**MEETING DATE:** April 27, 2009

**SUBJECT:** COMMUNITY CONCERNS ABOUT BUSES ON  
ST. ALBANS ROAD

## INFORMATION ITEM

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### RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Commission receive this report for information, noting that:

- 1) TTC staff have undertaken several measures, including increased supervision, monitoring and counselling of Operators on bus routes at Kipling Station, and will continue to do so to reduce the incidence of buses laying over on St. Albans Road in front of the adjacent condominiums, and to ensure compliance with the City's Three Minute Idling By-law;
- 2) Condominium residents have reported that these efforts have been very successful to date in reducing the impacts of bus operations; and
- 3) The Kipling Station East Entrance (Project F7 - 25) will include enough permanent layover space inside the station thus negating the need for buses to park on St. Albans Road. In order to address additional temporary capacity constraints during the construction, TTC staff are making arrangements to establish a temporary bus layover area on the Westwood Theatre lands.

### FUNDING

There will be no impact on the TTC's 2009 – 2013 Capital Program or 2009 Operating Budget. The additional supervisory resources required to monitor and enforce the aforementioned actions will be reallocated from within Bus Operations.

### BACKGROUND

The Kipling bus terminal is operating at its maximum practical capacity, with some routes doubled up in single bus bays, and layover space inside the station limited to only two buses. This over-capacity situation resulted in the practice of often having layovers taken outside the station, on the north side of St. Albans Road. This practice, which has been ongoing for many years, had virtually no impact on surrounding areas because there was little traffic on St. Albans Road and, the property on the north side of St. Albans Road was largely vacant. However, with the development of four condominiums adjacent to Kipling Station which are now occupied, some residents have expressed concerns to TTC and their local Councillor,

about the negative impact of buses laying over and idling in front of their buildings and want this practice stopped (see Exhibit 1).

The concerns, as expressed by residents were brought by Commissioner Milczyn to the Commission's meeting on September 18, 2008, at which time the Commission requested that staff report back on this issue. In response to this request, a report outlining several actions taken by TTC staff to minimize the impact of bus operations on residents until permanent improvements to Kipling Station are completed, was considered by the Commission at its meeting on November 26, 2008. At that time, the Commission directed:

1. That staff enforce the City's Three Minute Idling By-Law;
2. That staff investigate the possibility of using the Westwood Theatre site for bus layovers; and
3. That staff report back to the April 2009 Commission Meeting on the success of these efforts and ongoing complaints received from area residents.

This report responds to that request.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Enforcement of the City's Three Minute Idling By-Law**

Bus Operations staff has increased monitoring of the St. Albans Road location to ensure TTC operators are adhering to the City's Three Minute Idling By-Law, and that they are only parking at designated spots on St. Albans Road, as agreed between TTC staff and the adjacent Essex Condominium Corporation representatives. This monitoring includes the following activities:

- TTC Mobile Cab Supervisors have carried out 188 patrols of St. Albans Road from November 25, 2008 to date. These patrols were carried out at various times each day during the cab's 21 hour, 7-days a week scheduled shifts;
- Scheduled On-street Supervisors are assigned to monitor Kipling Station/St. Albans Road as resources allow. This activity will be increased as additional supervisory resources become available;
- Since November 2008, a total of 184 Operators have been advised and/or counselled regarding the City's Three Minute Idling By-Law and the parking arrangement relative to St. Albans Road;

- C.I.S. Supervisors from both Queensway and Arrow Road Divisions send out periodic text messages to Operators on all routes at Kipling Station reminding them to adhere to the City's Three Minute Idling By-Law and the designated parking areas on St. Albans Road; and
- Written notices have been posted at Queensway and Arrow Road Divisions advising Operators of the designated locations for up to three buses to layover on St. Albans Road, when necessary, such that condominium access is not impeded and safe site lines are maintained (see Exhibit 2).

### **The Westwood Theatre Site – Possible Use for Bus Layovers**

The Westwood Theatre lands are located immediately east of Kipling Station and extend north to Bloor Street (see Exhibit 1). These lands are currently owned by the City of Toronto and are designated for major redevelopment and intensification to mixed land uses. To facilitate access to transit service for future users of these lands, the TTC will soon be starting construction on a new pedestrian entrance at the east end of Kipling Station, with a new entrance building to be located adjacent to the station, underneath the Kipling Avenue overpass. Included in this project is an additional bus bay and expansion of the existing bus layover space within the bus terminal. A portion of the Westwood Theatre lands immediately east of Kipling Avenue will be used as a construction staging area for the contractor building the new entrance.

During construction of this new entrance, the bus capacity of the station will be reduced from time to time, and having an off-street temporary bus layover area would be helpful in managing bus operations during construction to avoid the increased incidence of buses parking on St. Albans Road. To this end, TTC staff have explored several options for the configuration and location of this bus layover area with the objectives of accommodating several buses at once, allowing for easy and convenient bus access to and from the station, minimizing costs, and ensuring that construction staging and access are not impeded. Plans for the temporary layover area will be finalized in consultation with the contractor for the East Entrance project, once the contract tender for that project has been awarded and a detailed construction plan has been developed.

### **Results of TTC Actions**

On December 5, 2008, TTC staff met with Councillor Milczyn and representatives from both the property management team and the Board of Directors for the Essex Condominium Corporation. During this meeting, it was conveyed to TTC staff that the actions taken to date to minimize buses laying over and idling on St. Albans Road had resulted in a marked improvement.

On March 23, 2009, TTC staff again met with a representative from the Condominium Corporation to provide an update on the TTC's ongoing efforts to address residents' concerns. The feedback received at this meeting was quite positive, with residents reporting a continued significant reduction in the incidence of buses parking on the street. They further noted that when buses do layover on the street, they are, for the most part, adhering to the designated parking areas and the idling by-law, although full compliance has not yet been achieved. Nevertheless, since significant success has been achieved to date, TTC staff will continue the monitoring and enforcement initiatives to reinforce this success and ensure continued positive progress.

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April 27, 2009  
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Attachment: Exhibit 1 – Kipling Station and Environs  
Exhibit 2 – Bus Layover Locations at Kipling Station and St. Albans Road

April 27, 2009

## Exhibit 2 Bus Layover Locations at Kipling Station and St. Albans Road

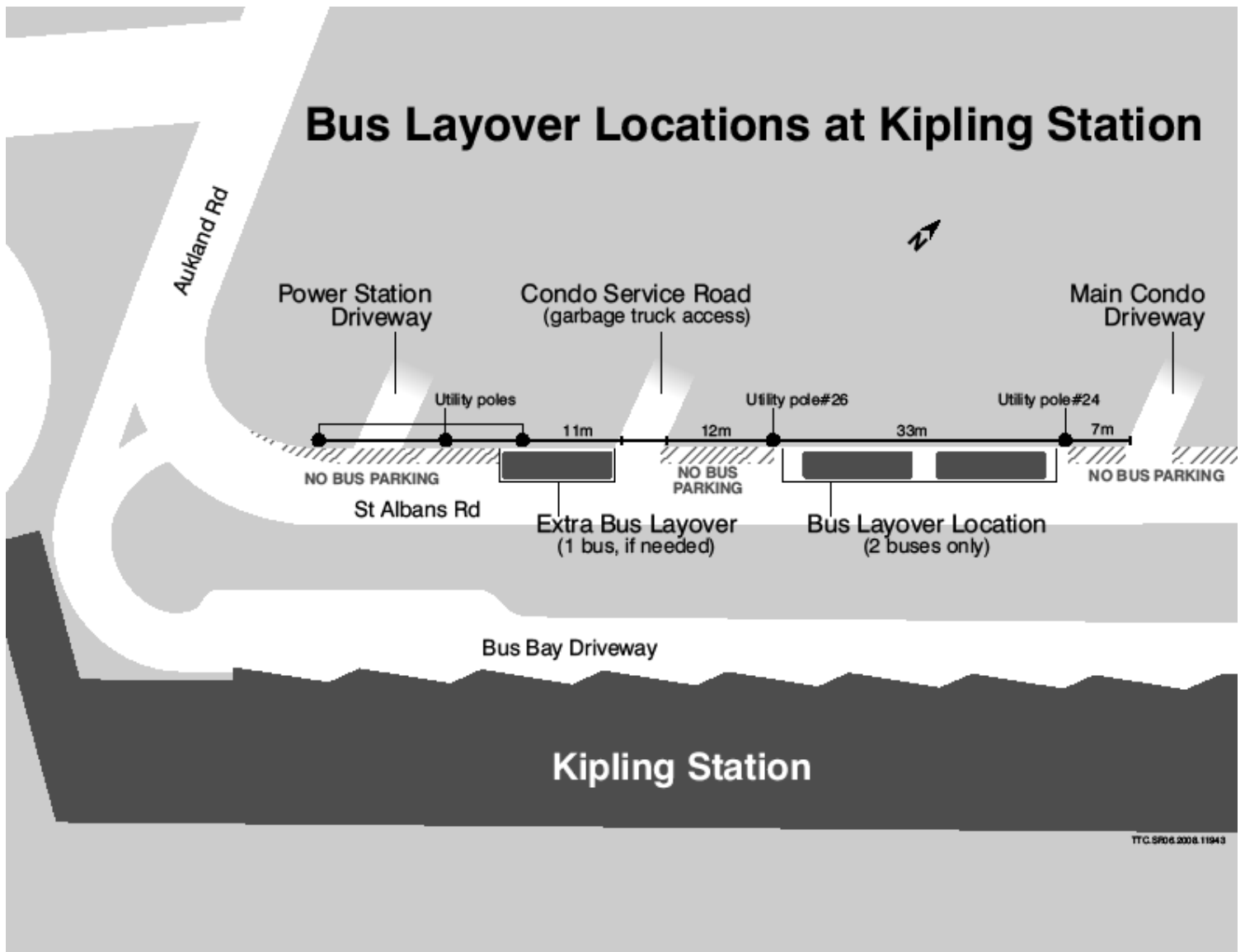




Exhibit 1  
**Kipling Station  
and Environs**

TTC.SP11.2008.11973



