

# TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION REPORT NO.

**MEETING DATE:** June 2, 2010

**SUBJECT:** 29 DUFFERIN BUS ROUTE – ROUTING CHANGE AT QUEEN STREET

**ACTION ITEM:**

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Commission approve:

- Changing the 29/329 DUFFERIN and 193 EXHIBITION ROCKET bus routes, upon the completion of the new intersection at Dufferin Street and Queen Street, so that buses operate on Dufferin Street crossing Queen Street in both directions, instead of via Peel Avenue, Gladstone Avenue, and Queen Street; and
- Forward this report to Deputy Mayor Pantalone, Councillors Augimeri, Moscoe, Palacio, and Perks, to Exhibition Place, Ontario Place, Metrolinx, and to the City of Toronto Transportation Services for information.

## FUNDING

This report has no impact on the TTC's capital or operating budgets.

## BACKGROUND

Buses on the 29/329 DUFFERIN and 193 EXHIBITION ROCKET routes currently operate via Peel Avenue, Gladstone Avenue, and Queen Street, in both directions because Dufferin Street does not connect at Queen Street. Construction of a new section of Dufferin Street, immediately north of Queen Street, to eliminate the "Dufferin jog", is underway and will be completed later in 2010. At that time, the north and south sections of Dufferin Street at Queen Street will connect, and pedestrians and road traffic will be able to travel straight through on Dufferin Street at the newly-constructed intersection.

## DISCUSSION

Bus service on Dufferin Street is provided 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by the 29/329 DUFFERIN route. Buses operate between Wilson Station, Dufferin Station, and Exhibition Place. The 193 EXHIBITION ROCKET route is a special-event express bus service that operates between Dundas West Station and Exhibition Place during special events such as the Canadian National Exhibition. Because Dufferin Street is discontinuous north of

Queen Street, buses and all other through-traffic must operate via Dufferin Street, Peel Avenue, Gladstone Avenue, Queen Street, and Dufferin Street, in both directions. With the completion of the new section of Dufferin Street to connect at Queen Street, buses will be able to operate straight through the intersection, instead of along the jog. Construction of the new connection is underway and the new road is scheduled to open later in the fall of 2010. A map showing the routing change is attached for reference. It is recommended that the routing of the 29/329 DUFFERIN and 193 EXHIBITION ROCKET buses be changed, effective upon the opening of the new roadway, to operate both ways via Dufferin Street at Queen Street.

With the more-direct connection, buses will no longer operate on Peel Avenue, Gladstone Avenue, and Queen Street. Because of the shorter routing and fewer turns, it is estimated that the new routing will save about one minute of travel time in each direction. Approximately 6,600 customer-trips cross Queen Street each day on the 29/329 DUFFERIN route, and these trips will be made with a faster trip. The current bus stops on Gladstone Avenue at Queen Street will be removed, and customers currently using that stop will have to walk from Gladstone Avenue to Dufferin Street, a distance of about 130 metres. Approximately 900 customer-trips are made at these stops each day. The change in weighted travel time shows that the benefits of a faster trip for the large number of through-customers outweighs the inconvenience of a longer walk for a smaller number of customers. Overall, the change would make service better for customers.

It is expected that service will also be improved on the 501/301 QUEEN streetcar route, because the elimination of the jog will reduce traffic volumes and intersection delays on Queen Street, between Gladstone Avenue and Dufferin Street.

In the short term, the expected improvement to operations on the 29/329 DUFFERIN, 193 EXHIBITION ROCKET, and 501/301 QUEEN routes are not projected to be great enough to allow an improvement in the scheduled interval between vehicles, or a reduction in vehicles.

## **JUSTIFICATION**

The elimination of the diversion via Peel Avenue, Gladstone Avenue, and Queen Street, and its replacement with through-operation on Dufferin Street, will provide a more-direct operation on the 29/329 DUFFERIN and 193 EXHIBITION ROCKET bus routes and make service better for customers. It is, therefore, recommended for implementation as soon as construction is complete.

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May 11, 2010

11-31-43

Attachment: Exhibit1 - Map

Exhibit 1

# 29 Dufferin • 329 Dufferin

## Routing Change at Queen Street

