

# TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION REPORT NO.

**MEETING DATE:** March 30, 2012

**SUBJECT:** TTC SERVICE TO GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE  
WATERFRONT CAMPUS

**ACTION ITEM:**

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Commission:

1. Approve the route changes to the 6 BAY bus route described in this report, on a trial basis, effective July 29, 2012, to better serve customers travelling to and from the new George Brown College Waterfront Campus on Queens Quay East at Sherbourne Street, noting that:
  - the new campus will accommodate 3,800 students and staff who are expected to make approximately 5,200 TTC trips to and from the campus each weekday;
  - service will be significantly increased on the south end of the 6 BAY bus route, and there will be more modest service increases on the 75 SHERBOURNE bus route;
  - a future route extension of the 65 PARLIAMENT bus route to Queens Quay will be evaluated by TTC staff once further development in the area proceeds, and when all roads in the area are suitable for bus operations; and
  - bus service to the new campus is an interim measure which will be required until the approved new streetcar line on Queens Quay East is funded, built, and in operation.
2. Forward this report to Councillors McConnell, Vaughan, and Wong-Tam, to George Brown College, and to Waterfront Toronto.

## FUNDING

Funding for these service changes has been included in the 2012 TTC Operating Budget.

## BACKGROUND

Redevelopment of the East Bayfront portion of Toronto's waterfront is a major project that is being led by Waterfront Toronto. The latest significant development is a new Waterfront Campus for George Brown College, located south of Queens Quay East at

Sherbourne Street. Approximately 3,800 students and staff will attend and work there, and they are expected to make 5,200 TTC trips to and from the campus on a typical weekday. Occupancy of the building will begin in August 2012, with full college activities starting in September 2012.

In approving the "Making Waves" Secondary Plan for the Waterfront in 2002, City Council established a "transit first" policy for the area with the objective of having high-quality transit service in place in advance of major developments to promote and develop a transit-oriented character for the area from the outset. Over the past decade, Waterfront Toronto has led an extensive planning and consultation process on the redevelopment of the East Bayfront area, and as part of this work, City Council approved the East Bayfront Transit Environmental Assessment in July 2010 for a new streetcar service in its own right-of-way from Union Station along Queens Quay East. This streetcar line will provide reliable, accessible transit service to new developments in the East Bayfront and will help achieve the City's objective of attracting to transit people who will live, work, and attend school in the new neighbourhoods.

Unfortunately, funding to construct the East Bayfront streetcar line is not available, and as a result, an interim bus service is required until the streetcar line is in place. This report describes the interim bus route changes that are recommended for introduction this summer.

## **DISCUSSION**

As a result of the additional transit ridership expected to be generated by the new George Brown College Waterfront Campus, TTC staff has developed revised and increased bus services, using forecast ridership information provided by George Brown College and its transportation consultants.

### **6 BAY Bus Route – Revised Routing**

It is recommended that the 6 BAY bus route be extended to directly serve the new George Brown College Waterfront Campus. Buses would operate south on Bay Street, east on Queens Quay, and south, east and north on Dockside Drive to Queens Quay (see attached map of the service). Buses would return west on Queens Quay. This change would bring service on this route to the front door of the new campus building and would provide convenient alighting and boarding areas for customers at the campus. Dockside Drive has been designed to accommodate the required bus stops. The routing change would also provide improved two-way service on Queens Quay between Yonge Street and Sherbourne Street, serving all other developments in the East Bayfront.

This change would result in the removal of 6 BAY service from Freeland Street, from Lake Shore Boulevard between Freeland Street and Jarvis Street, and from Jarvis Street between Lake Shore Boulevard and Queens Quay. Altogether, four bus stops would be affected in this area. Two stops, on Freeland Street at Queens Quay, and on Jarvis Street at Queens Quay, would be relocated to new stops on Queens Quay, at Freeland Street, and at Jarvis Street. The other two affected stops, on Freeland Street at Lake Shore Boulevard and the southbound stop on Jarvis Street at Lake Shore Boulevard, would be eliminated.

Approximately 220 customer-trips begin or end each day at these two stops. Customers who currently use the affected stops would have to walk approximately 215 metres to Queens Quay to access 6 BAY bus service. Northbound service on the 75 SHERBOURNE route would remain on Jarvis Street. The change in weighted travel time shows that the customer benefits of the 6 BAY route extension outweigh the inconvenience of a longer walk for customers using the bus stops on the part of the route that would be removed. Overall, the change would make service better for customers.

Introducing this routing change in the summer (on Sunday, July 29, 2012) will ensure that the service will be in place when the new campus is first being occupied and in advance of the first classes.

#### 6 BAY Bus Route – Increased Service

Service will be increased on the 6 BAY bus route to match the increased demand to Queens Quay and the new college campus. A new supplementary branch of the route will provide service between Union Station on the Yonge-University Subway and the new campus. Service operating from Bay Station on the Bloor-Danforth Subway and the new campus will also be increased.

As part of the service level changes, scheduled TTC service will be removed from the peak-period short-turn branch on Edward Street, Elizabeth Street, and Elm Street, just north of Dundas Street. Two stops on this routing will no longer be served. Approximately 80 customer-trips begin or end at these stops each day. Customers currently using these stops would have to walk approximately 190 metres to the main 6 BAY service on Bay Street.

Starting on September 4, 2012, passengers travelling from George Brown College to Union Station will have service every two-to-four minutes in the peak periods, every six-to-fifteen minutes at other times of the daytime, and every 15-to-24 minutes in the evenings. Passengers travelling to Bay Station will have service every three-to-six minutes in the peak-periods, every 12-to-15 minutes at other times of the daytime, and every 15-to-24 minutes in the evenings. Service will operate from approximately 5:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. Monday-Saturday, and 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Sundays.

#### 75 SHERBOURNE Bus Route – Increased Service

Service will be also be increased on the 75 SHERBOURNE bus route to accommodate the projected increase in travel between the new campus, Sherbourne Station on the Bloor-Danforth Subway, and the many points along the route, including the George Brown College St. James Campus at King Street and Sherbourne Street. Starting September 4, 2012, service will be increased in the peak-periods and midday from Monday to Friday, and in the afternoons on Saturdays. Buses will operate every 7-to-12 minutes during the daytime from Monday to Friday, and every 11-to-30 minutes at all other times. Service will operate from approximately 5:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. Monday-Saturday, and 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. on Sundays. There will be no change to the routing, which serves the college from the north side of Queens Quay East at Sherbourne Street.

The increased service levels on the 6 BAY and 75 SHERBOURNE routes are based on projected ridership at George Brown College and along Queens Quay East. Sufficient resources were specifically included in the 2012 Service Budget to introduce these service changes. Service will be further adjusted as required based on actual ridership counts.

#### 65 PARLIAMENT Bus Route – Possible Future Route Extension

TTC staff also evaluated a possible extension of the 65 PARLIAMENT bus route, which currently ends at The Esplanade, to Queens Quay to serve the new George Brown College Waterfront Campus. Several routings were examined. A route extension is not currently recommended, because the existing development and population density along the extended route section is not yet high enough to offset the inconvenience to riders on the existing south-end on-street looping, via Front Street, Princess Street, The Esplanade and Berkeley Street who would have a longer walk to a revised service. Another routing option, via south on Parliament Street, west on Queens Quay, north on Sherbourne Street, and east on The Esplanade, which would retain service to The Esplanade, is not possible at this time because Sherbourne Street between Queens Quay and Lake Shore Boulevard is temporarily one-way southbound, and is expected to remain that way for one or more years. TTC staff will re-evaluate an extension of the 65 PARLIAMENT route when the road network permits, and when development south of The Esplanade increases.

#### SUMMARY

The opening of the new George Brown College Waterfront Campus will increase transit demand along Queens Quay East. An extension of the 6 BAY bus route will bring service closer to the new George Brown College Waterfront Campus, and will better serve all the development along the East Bayfront. Increased service on the 6 BAY and 75 SHERBOURNE bus routes has been designed to match service levels to the projected ridership levels.

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March 6, 2012

11-31-57/82

Attachment: Map: TTC Service to George Brown College Waterfront Campus

# TTC Service to George Brown College Waterfront Campus

