

TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION REPORT NO.

MEETING DATE: (Re-submitted July 24, 2013)
June 24, 2013

SUBJECT: 63 OSSINGTON ROUTE: REQUEST FOR EXTENSION TO
HELLENIC HOME FOR THE AGED

ACTION ITEM

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the TTC Board:

1. Confirm the existing routing of the 63 OSSINGTON bus route and not approve the requested routing change; and
2. Forward this report to Councillors Fragedakis and Mihevc.

FUNDING

This report has no effect on the TTC's Operating Budget.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting of May 24, 2013, the Board received a request (attached) from Councillors Fragedakis and Mihevc to change the 63 OSSINGTON bus route to provide service closer to the Hellenic Home for the Aged, which is located at 11 Winona Drive, just north of the current routing. The Board directed staff to report back on this request. This report responds to that directive.

DISCUSSION

The 63 OSSINGTON bus route operates between King Street (Liberty Village) and Eglinton West Subway Station, 24 hours per day, seven days per week. During peak periods, there is also a second supplemental branch that operates between King Street and St. Clair Avenue West. Ridership on the route has been increasing steadily, and is currently 21,600 trips per day.

The Councillors' request is to change the existing service so that it would divert off its current routing, via Davenport Road, Winona Drive, Tyrell Avenue, and Alberta Avenue, returning to its regular routing on Davenport Road, as shown on the attached map.

In response to the Councillors' request, TTC staff evaluated two options: alter the routing of either the 63 OSSINGTON or 161 ROGERS ROAD bus routes. These changes would result in the routes looping around Winona Drive, Tyrell Avenue, and Alberta Avenue before continuing on their

regular routing. The attached map illustrates the two investigated routing options. Both investigated routing changes would improve service for customers who are destined to, or from, the area around the Hellenic Home for the Aged, because they would have a shorter walk to the nearest bus stop. The number of customers projected to use either altered routing is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Projected Ridership to/ from Area of Hellenic Home

Customer-Trips	AM Peak	Midday	PM Peak	Early Evening	Late Evening	TOTAL
63 OSSINGTON	40	60	70	30	20	220
161 ROGERS ROAD	45	70	75	25	15	230

Both investigated changes would make service worse for customers who now use these routes in the area of the possible changes (north of Davenport Road), because these customers would have less-direct service and, therefore, longer travel times. Table 2 shows that, if the 63 OSSINGTON bus route were altered, approximately 5,300 customers per day would have a longer travel time of about four minutes.

Table 2: Customer-Trips with Longer Travel Times on 63 OSSINGTON Bus Route

	AM Peak	Midday	PM Peak	Early Evening	Late Evening	TOTAL
Customer-Trips	830	1540	1650	765	510	5,295
Longer Travel (minutes)	4	4	4	4	3	

Table 3 shows that, if the 161 ROGERS ROAD bus route were altered, approximately 2,500 customers per day would have a longer travel time of about six minutes.

Table 3: Customer-Trips with Longer Travel Times on 161 ROGERS ROAD Bus Route

	AM Peak	Midday	PM Peak	Early Evening	Late Evening	TOTAL
Customer-Trips	445	770	790	315	180	2,500
Longer Travel (minutes)	6	6	6	5	5	

In both cases, the additional travel time, as perceived by customers on-board the buses, could be worse because, in general, circuitous diversions away from the main direction of travel are disliked by customers who want to get to their destinations as directly and quickly as possible. The diversions would be seen as an irritant by the majority of customers who would be affected on these routes.

Table 4 provides a forecast of the number of customers that would stop using the TTC because of the increased inconvenience of the longer travel time. These 300-430 customers per day would seek alternative travel choices.

Table 4: Customer-Trips Lost from the TTC Due to Longer Travel Times

Customer-Trips	AM Peak	Midday	PM Peak	Early Evening	Late Evening	TOTAL
63 OSSINGTON	-50	-130	-110	-70	-40	-400
161 ROGERS ROAD	-40	-110	-70	-50	-30	-300

In both investigated routing-change options, the inconvenience of longer travel times for a large number of existing customers would greatly exceed the benefit of a shorter walk for customers destined for the Hellenic Home area. The changes would make service on either the 63 OSSINGTON or the 161 ROGERS ROAD bus routes worse, overall, for customers.

A secondary, but also important, consideration is the operational problems on the requested routing. The narrow lanes and on-street parking along the routing would not allow safe bus operations on those streets. It would be necessary to prohibit all on-street parking. The speed humps along Alberta Avenue would need to be removed because, for the safety of on-board passengers and to avoid structural damage to buses, TTC policy prohibits operation of regular, scheduled service on streets with speed bumps. The sidewalk widths along Winona Drive are too narrow to allow deployment of the buses' mobility ramps, so the stops would not be accessible. To rectify this, significant work would be required to rebuild the retaining walls in front of the Hellenic Home.

JUSTIFICATION

A re-routing of either the 63 OSSINGTON or 161 ROGERS ROAD bus routes to the Hellenic Home for the Aged would result in overall worse service for a large number of existing customers, with a resulting expectation of losses of some of those customers from the TTC. Both routing changes would require changes to on-street parking, road structures, and sidewalk widths. For these reasons, it is recommended that there be no change to the existing routings of either bus route.

11-31-45

Attachments: April 3, 2013 Letter
Map



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Councillor Mihevc
St. Paul's West
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April 3, 2013

Councillor Karen Stintz
Chair, TTC Commission
100 Queen St. West B32
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear TTC Chair and Commissioners,

This letter is a request for the TTC to consider changing the route of the Ossington 63 bus. The objective of the route change would be to improve service to the senior's residence at 11 Winona Drive and the neighbouring public schools.

The Hellenic Home for the aged, 11 Winona Drive, is home to 300 seniors and employs 150 people. The home is blessed with many visitors who come to share time with loved ones. The steep hill on Winona poses a major mobility barrier to the seniors and their many visitors. A small change in the route of the Ossington 63 bus would go a long way to alleviating that and to enriching these people's lives.

Such a service change would also be a benefit to two public schools – McMurrich Junior Public School and Winona Drive Senior Public School. They are across Tyrell Street from the Hellenic Home for the Aged.

One possible route change that would achieve this objective would be for the bus when northbound at Ossington and Davenport to:

- Turn right onto Davenport
- Then turn left at Winona
- Then turn left at Tyrell
- Then turn left at Alberta
- Then turn right at Davenport
- And proceed with current route

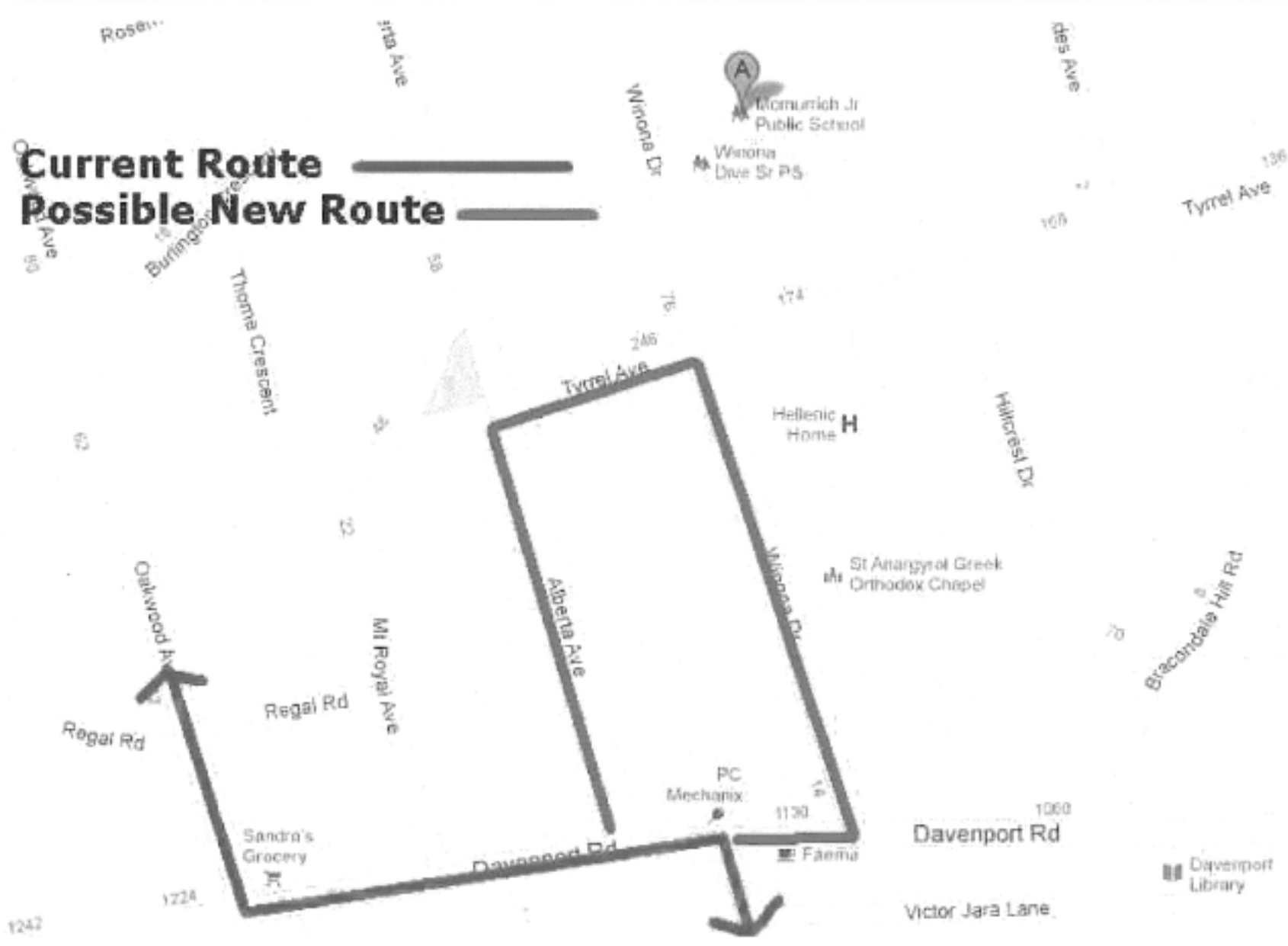
With this route and a corresponding reversal for the southbound bus, there would be a stop in front of the Hellenic Home for the Aged. Please see enclosed map for a diagram of this route.

Sincerely,


Councillor Mary Fragedakis
Ward 29, Toronto-Danforth


Councillor Joe Mihevc
Ward 21, St. Paul's West

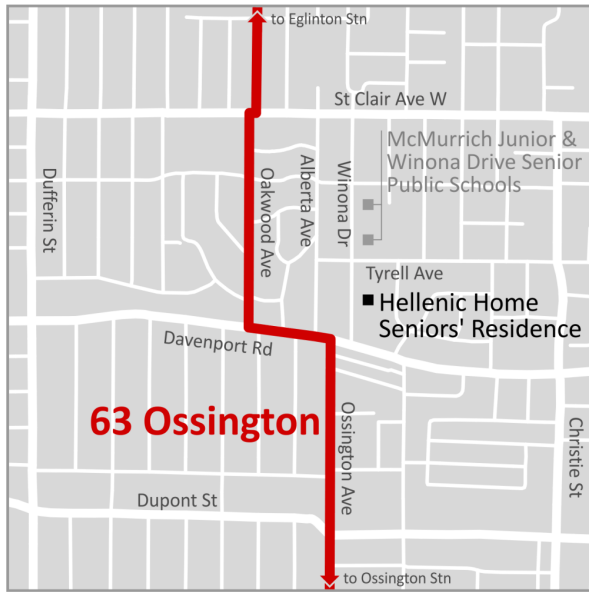
Current Route 
Possible New Route 



Request to Bring Transit Closer to Hellenic Home for the Aged

63 Ossington Bus Route

Current Routing

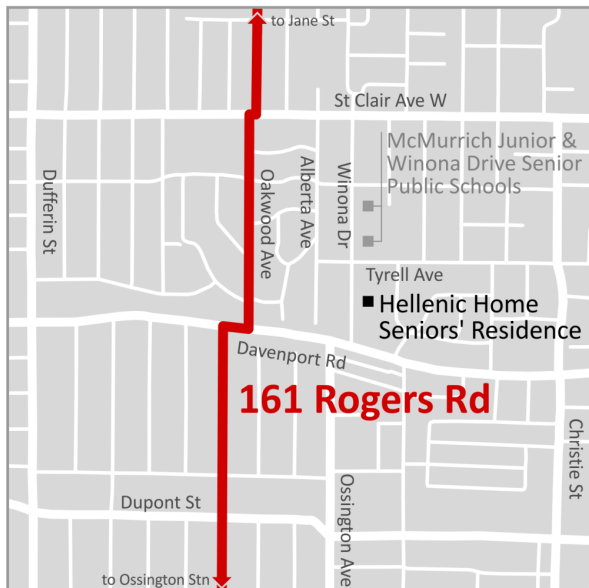


Councillors' Requested Routing Change



161 Rogers Rd Bus Route

Current Routing



Investigated Routing Change

