



BRUCE ST & ELMWOOD AVE

Two Way Street Conversion



Civic Works Committee

November 11, 2013



Background

- Purpose of the report is to present the feasibility of changing Bruce Street and Elmwood Avenue, between Ridout Street and Wharncliffe Road, from one-way streets to two-way streets due to safety concerns.
- A study was conducted to examine the technical and operational implications of the potential conversion as well as the associated costs.
- The intent of this public participation meeting is to present the study findings to the Committee and public in order to receive comments.
- Public input/local resident buy-in to any changes are a key component of the consultation and decision making.



Existing Conditions



- Bruce Street is an eastbound one-way secondary collector with on-street parking on the north side.
- Elmwood Avenue is a westbound one-way secondary collector with on-street parking on the south side.
- All controlled and uncontrolled intersections within the study area are operating well, with no existing capacity issues.
- Some traffic have been observed periodically turning the wrong-way on Bruce Street and Elmwood Avenue.



Existing Conditions



- LTC currently operates the Route 15 Westmount bus in the study area.
- A 5 year review of collisions revealed no apparent collisions which involved a motorist travelling the wrong way on both streets.
- Collisions at intersections within the study area are typical of other City stop-controlled intersections.
- Some members of the public have expressed safety concerns with vehicles and cyclists travelling the wrong-way on these roadways.



Potential Conversion to Two-Way

- A review of the traffic operations under a two-way system indicates that Bruce Street and Elmwood Avenue are expected to operate at acceptable levels.
- Existing on-street parking on both streets could be maintained.
- The routing of the 15 Westmount bus would have to be changed so that only Elmwood Avenue is utilized due to the wider pavement width.
- The estimated total cost of the potential conversion of Bruce Street and Elmwood Avenue to two-way street is approximately \$63,000 (Removal and modification of signs, line painting, and minor construction).



Public Comments to Date

- Initial public comments have indicated that the existing one-way configurations should be maintained.
- There is no appropriate traffic justification in the feasibility study.
- Results from drivers that travel the wrong way have been generally embarrassment not collisions.
- Additional signage for both streets might help reduce the confusion.
- Going two-way would be a disastrous on many accounts.
- Installing bike lanes would be viewed most positively in the neighborhood.



Public Comments to Date

- Traffic enforcement might be a useful tool.
- Speed and wrong way infractions result from those unfamiliar with the neighborhood.
- Elmwood Ave could likely be more easily to accommodate two-way traffic due to its width.
- If Bruce St was converted to two-way, there would be no room for on-street parking.
- Consideration should be given to convert Craig St between Wortley Rd and Ridout St to one-way operation.
- It is not clear to us how making Elmwood Ave a two-way street will improve traffic flow or what benefits are expected.



Public Comments to Date

- Support converting Bruce St and Elmwood Ave into two-way streets.
- Have seen many speeding cars down on Bruce St.
- Making Bruce St two-way may cause further concerns if no traffic calming measures are installed.
- The main advantage to two-way traffic on Bruce St is that it will slow down the traffic.
- Don't spend the money just because few drivers travel the wrong way.
- Further discussion and input from and with the community may be necessary.



Conclusion

- A Feasibility Study to examine the conversion of Bruce St & Elmwood Ave from one-way operation to two-way was conducted at the request of the Council.
- Bruce St & Elmwood Ave currently operate at acceptable levels during the AM & PM peak hour periods with one-way operations in place.
- Potential safety concerns exist with vehicles and cyclists travelling the wrong-way on these roadways.
- Bruce St & Elmwood Ave are expected to continue operating well if converted to two-way operation.
- Initial public comments indicated opposition to the potential two-way street conversion.



Recommendation

*Civic Administration **BE DIRECTED** to survey the adjacent property owners to determine the level of local resident support for this change.*