

# TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION REPORT NO.

**MEETING DATE:** June 24, 2013

**SUBJECT:** 353 STEELES EAST OVERNIGHT BUS ROUTE:  
EXTENSION TO MARKHAM ROAD

## **ACTION ITEM**

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### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Approve a trial extension of the 353 STEELES EAST overnight bus route from Middlefield Road to Markham Road, as described in this report, effective August 4, 2013; and
2. Forward this report to Councillors Cho, Del Grande, Filion, Lee, and Shiner.

### **FUNDING**

This route extension will have no effect on the TTC's Operating Budget.

### **BACKGROUND**

A detailed review of bus route operations on Steeles Avenue East revealed that there is time available in the current schedule of the 353 STEELES EAST overnight route to extend the route at no additional cost. This report recommends a route change to make better use of the time available in the current schedule.

### **DISCUSSION**

The 53 STEELES EAST bus route operates between Finch Station and Staines Road, between approximately 5:30 a.m. and 1:30 a.m., every day. Overnight, after 1:30 a.m., the 353 STEELES EAST bus route operates between Yonge Street and Middlefield Road, until the regular 53 STEELES EAST service resumes at around 5:30 a.m. At the eastern end of the 353 STEELES EAST route, overnight buses turn around at the off-street bus loop on Middlefield Road, just north of Steeles Avenue. Therefore, there is no overnight service on Steeles Avenue, east of Middlefield Road, when the 53 STEELES EAST service is not operating.

TTC staff identified that the 353 STEELES EAST overnight bus has excess time in its schedule. Two buses are used to provide a 30-minute service, with 60 minutes allocated for a bus to travel one round trip. In practice, approximately only 50 minutes are required for a round trip in the overnight period. TTC staff evaluated several different options to extend the route, in order to make better use of the available time in the schedule, while still maintaining the standard 30-minute service operated on overnight routes.

**353 STEELES EAST OVERNIGHT BUS ROUTE:  
EXTENSION TO MARKHAM ROAD**

The preferred option is to extend the route east on Steeles Avenue to Markham Road, turning around via south on Tapscott Road, west on Passmore Avenue, and north on Markham Road (see attached map). Service would continue to be provided every 30 minutes on the route, and no buses would have to be added to the route. There would be no increase in operating costs.

This route extension would reduce the distance that customers need to walk from their nearest overnight bus stop if they are destined to or from stops east of Middlefield Road. The new route segment is projected to be used for approximately 15 new customer-trips each night. The route extension would result in new bus operations, between approximately 1:30 a.m. and 5:30 a.m., on industrial/commercial streets.

Overnight service at Middlefield Road and Steeles Avenue would be moved from the existing off-street loop to stops at the same intersection on the north-east and south-west corners. Based on the most-recent ridership count for the route, less than five customers would be affected by this change.

There would be no inconvenience caused to existing customers, and the route extension would provide a benefit to customers who begin or end their trips east of Middlefield Road. The overnight extension would serve Markham Road, which is also served by most buses on the daytime 53 STEELES EAST route. Because the change would make service more convenient for customers, and can be implemented at no additional operating cost, it is recommended that this extension of the 353 STEELES EAST route to Markham Road, seven days per week, be implemented for a trial period, starting August 4, 2013.

**JUSTIFICATION**

Since the 353 STEELES EAST night bus route extension to Markham Road would result in better service overall for customers, with no increase in operating costs, it should be implemented for a trial period.

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Attachments: Map: Proposed Extension of 353 STEELES EAST Route to Markham Road

# Proposed Extension of 353 Steeles East Route to Markham Rd

