

ITEM 12

MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 41

COUNCIL MEETING June 9/75

Re: Formby Street off Canada Way. Request for Road Closure.
(Item 8, Report No. 37, May 20, 1975.)

Council, at its meeting of May 20, 1975, received a request from 18 persons for the installation of a barricade on Formby Street off Canada Way. As the Engineering Department was evaluating traffic flows and patterns in the area at that time, Council was advised that a staff report on the matter would be available on June 9, 1975.

Following is the Municipal Engineer's report regarding the subject matter.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT no action be taken on the request to close Formby Street, off Canada Way, at the Formby Street exit from the Merit Carwash; and
2. THAT a copy of this report be provided to Mr. D. Mutter and other petitioners requesting closure of Formby Street.

* * * * *

4 June, 1975

TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER

FROM: MUNICIPAL ENGINEER

SUBJECT: FORMBY STREET - REQUEST FOR ROAD CLOSURE

Reference the letter and petition from Mr. D. Mutter of 7671 Formby Street, dated May, 1975.

Formby Street is a short street that runs west off Canada Way, two blocks south of Imperial Street. Situated on the southwest corner of Canada Way and Formby Street is the Merit Carwash and Self-Serve Gas Station. The carwash property extends through to Ulster Street and the traffic circulation is entry off Ulster Street and exit onto Formby if picking up gasoline. Should a vehicle go through the carwash after picking up gas, then it would exit onto Ulster Street (see attached sketch).

To try and get a feel for the problem we had a number of short origin destination observations made to check the number of vehicles that left the service station and turned left up Formby Street. In a total of three hours we observed 32 vehicles. These vehicles then turned right onto Gordon Avenue and all but one proceeded north to Imperial. Then 18 of the 31 remaining turned left on Imperial while 13 turned right and proceeded to Canada Way.

At first we thought many of these vehicles were trying to use the Imperial traffic signal to get back onto Canada Way, but it now appears that the majority live to the west of Canada Way and use this route to avoid two left turns on Canada Way. It would also appear that many motorists wishing to make a left turn off Canada Way onto Imperial Street take any advantage of a gap in the traffic and make left turns into Formby and into Mayfield Streets, and then go via Gordon Avenue to Imperial. As an example, while doing one spot check on 26 May, 1975, at the corner of Gordon Avenue and Imperial Street we counted in a one hour period a total of 46 vehicles approaching Imperial on Gordon Avenue. Of the 46 vehicles only eight had come from the Merit Carwash. As this count was taken between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. we doubt whether the vehicles were generated by the 30 odd homes in the area as they were all outbound.

In summing up, and bearing in mind the limited time spent in field observations, it would appear that the increase in traffic on the Formby/Gordon route is caused by:

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- (a) Merit Carwash customers who either seek the Imperial traffic light to enter a left turn onto Canada Way or in the greater majority live west of Canada Way, and wish to avoid two left turns on Canada Way.
- (b) Commuters who are avoiding the congestion at Canada Way and Imperial and make a desired left turn at the first opportune moment at either Formby or Mayfield.

To actually validate much of this conclusion would require additional on the spot observations with license plate checks. This would be quite time consuming and would require many man hours. In addition we should also advise that we received a complaint from a Mr. Leach of 7606 Ulster Street who stated that vehicles from the Merit Carwash were coming up his street to the lane and then driving through to Hersham Avenue to get to Imperial or Elwell Streets. Although we have not checked this latest complaint out, it may be that a similar condition exists here as on Formby.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. THAT, without further study and because the blocking of Formby could be detrimental to Ulster Street and to Mayfield Street, no action be taken on the request to block Formby Street west of the exit from the Merit Carwash.
- 2. THAT Mr. D. Mutter be sent a copy of this report.


MUNICIPAL ENGINEER

HB:cmg

c.c. ()Traffic Supervisor

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