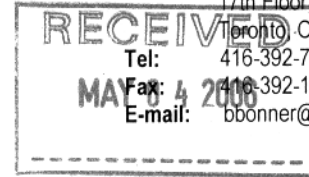


Fareed Amin, Deputy City Manager

Gary Welsh, P. Eng.
General Manager
Transportation Services Division

Reply to: Bob Bonner
Traffic Operations
17th Floor, Metro Hall
Toronto, Ontario M5V 3C6
Tel: 416-392-7712
Fax: 416-392-1920
E-mail: bbonner@toronto.ca



May 3, 2006

Councillor Michael Walker
Ward 22 – St. Paul’s
100 Queen St. W., Suite B26
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 2N2

Dear Councillor Walker:

Re: Mount Pleasant Road and Soudan Avenue – Request to review pedestrian crossing times

In response to an April 11, 2006 e-mail from Pierre D’Aoust of your office, forwarding a February 2, 2006 letter from Samuel Hirsch of Shoppers Drug Mart, we have reviewed the time provided for pedestrians to cross Mount Pleasant Road at the above-noted intersection. Based on our review, we can offer the following comments.

During the busiest eight-hour period of a typical weekday, approximately 2,500 pedestrians cross at this intersection. At intersections controlled by traffic signals, we provide sufficient time to enable pedestrians to cross at a comfortable walking speed. This time is based on the average walking speed for the majority of adults, identified through surveys from many municipalities including the City of Toronto, and equates to about 1.2 metres per second. In areas where we have identified a high percentage of pedestrians with slower average walking speeds (such as senior citizens and school children) we provide time for pedestrians to cross the road at a slower walking speed of about 1.0 metre per second or less.

The following table summarizes the crossing distances, existing crossing times and the required crossing times at a walking speed of 1.0 metre per second for pedestrians crossing Mount Pleasant Road at Soudan Avenue:

Time Period	Crossing distance (metres)	Duration of the “Walk” phase (sec.)	Duration of the “Flashing Don’t Walk” phase (sec.)	Total Pedestrian Crossing Time Provided (sec.)	Required Pedestrian Crossing Time (sec.)
All time periods	20.1	10	14	24	21

The total time provided for pedestrians to cross a road at a signalized intersection is the sum of the duration of the “Walk” and “Helping Hand (Flashing Don’t Walk)” displays. As shown in the table above, we provide adequate time for pedestrians to cross Mount Pleasant Road at Soudan Avenue during all times periods. The “Helping Hand” feature warns pedestrians not to start crossing when there is no longer adequate time for them to complete their crossing. If pedestrians have started to cross and the “Helping Hand” indication appears, there is still sufficient time for them to complete their crossing. For greater comfort, we suggest that all pedestrians, especially senior citizens and school children, always initiate their crossing at the start of the “Walk” indication.

Also, please find attached a brochure which provides more detailed information about the “Helping Hand Feature”.

May3, 2006

If you have any questions regarding this investigation, please contact Bob Bonner, Transportation Technologist, at (416) 392-7712.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Benjamin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephen Benjamin
Manager, Traffic Operations,
Toronto and East York District, West Area

Attach.
BB/bb
06-00615
W0037

c.c Samuel Hirsch, Shoppers Drug Mart, 732 Mount Pleasant Road, Toronto, M4S 2N6