

Hickory Tree Road – Traffic Calming

Date:	August 13, 2007
To:	Etobicoke York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services - Etobicoke York District
Wards:	Ward 11 – York South-Weston
Reference Number:	p:\2007\Cluster B\TRA\EtobicokeYork\eycc070115-to – AFS5668

SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter for which Community Council has delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision.

The purpose of this report is to outline the findings of an investigation to determine the need to install speed humps on Hickory Tree Road, between Lawrence Avenue West and Bellevue Crescent. A staff assessment has shown that the criteria for the installation of speed humps on Hickory Tree Road are met.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that Etobicoke York Community Council:

1. Authorize the City Clerk to conduct a poll of eligible householders in English, Italian and Portuguese, on Hickory Tree Road, between Lawrence Avenue West and Bellevue Crescent, to determine resident support for the proposed speed hump plan, in accordance with the City of Toronto Traffic Calming Policy;
2. subject to favourable results of the poll;
 - a. The City Solicitor prepare a by-law to alter sections of the roadway on Hickory Tree Road, between Lawrence Avenue West and Bellevue Crescent, for traffic calming purposes, generally as shown on the attached print Drawing No. EY07-143, dated June 2007 and circulated to residents through the polling process;

- b. Transportation Services take the necessary actions to reduce the speed limit from 40 km/h to 30 km/h on Hickory Tree Road, between Lawrence Avenue West and Bellevue Crescent when the speed humps are installed.

Financial Impact

Type of Funding	Source of Funds	Amount
Available within current budget	Transportation Services Capital Budget	\$12,000.00

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Councillor Frances Nunziata, on behalf of an area residents, requested Transportation Services staff to review the feasibility of installing physical traffic calming measures (speed humps) on Hickory Tree Road, between Lawrence Avenue West and Bellevue Crescent.

COMMENTS

Hickory Tree Road, between Lawrence Avenue West and Bellevue Crescent is a collector roadway operating two-way northbound and southbound with a posted speed limit of 40 km/h and a road width of 9.5 metres.

We assessed the subject location against the City of Toronto’s Traffic Calming Policy, adopted by City Council at its meeting of April 16, 17 and 18, 2002. According to the policy guidelines, the prime criteria for the installation of speed humps are vehicle speeds and traffic volume. Other environmental factors are also considered, such as road width, pedestrian facilities and gradient. The proposal was further evaluated under the technical criteria, with the results summarized in Appendix A attached.

Based on our assessment, Hickory Tree Road, between Lawrence Avenue West and Bellevue Crescent, satisfies the criteria as set out in the traffic calming policy for the installation of traffic calming devices.

Accordingly, based on the data collected and evaluated against the warrants for the installation of traffic calming measures, the installation of speed humps is recommended on Hickory Tree Road, between Lawrence Avenue West and Bellevue Crescent.

A review of the Toronto Police Service collision records indicates that between January 1, 2004 and December 31, 2006, no collisions attributed to speeding were reported on Hickory Tree Road, between Lawrence Avenue West and Bellevue Crescent.

Installing speed humps will result in slower operating speeds for all vehicles, including emergency service vehicles, and could result in increased response times in the event of an emergency.

According to the provisions of the City of Toronto traffic calming policy, the City Clerk must formally poll householders who would be directly affected by installing speed humps on this section of Hickory Tree Road. Under this policy, Transportation Services staff must receive a minimum response of 50 percent plus one ballot, of which at least 60 percent of the households that respond must be in favour of installing speed humps. Then staff can proceed with the installation. Accordingly, subject to approval by Council of the recommendations outlined above, the City Clerk would poll householders on Hickory Tree Road, and report the results to Councillor Nunziata. If the poll supports installing speed humps on Hickory Tree Road, Transportation Services staff will schedule installation according to relative need and competing priorities.

Transportation staff use a method to determine relative need and to prioritize installing speed humps, based on traffic volume, vehicle speed percentages, speed related collisions, and the presence of schools, parks, seniors' residences or bicycle routes. Based on this technical review, Hickory Tree Road scored 48 ranking points out of a possible 100.

No alterations to parking regulations are required, nor would the number of parking spaces be affected, and the effects on winter services, street cleaning and garbage collection should be minimal.

Consultation with emergency services (Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services) is required in order to ensure that the design and layout of a traffic calming proposals do not unduly affect their operations. Although we generally advise emergency services of our intentions, we do not always receive a formal response. However, Toronto Fire Services has provided the following general statement in the past regarding the installation of speed humps:

“...Toronto Fire Service is supportive of initiatives that improve the life safety of our citizens. Our concern is that the physical calming measures being proposed may negatively impact emergency response to the area.

The vertical restrictions imposed by speed humps have a much greater affect on large fire vehicles than smaller passenger vehicles. Response time increases with every obstacle a fire vehicle encounters en route from the fire station to the incident. Although the increase at each hump may only be seconds, the cumulative effect can be a significant amount of time that could result in increased property damage, unnecessary injury or loss of life.

Speed humps are generally hard on large, heavy vehicle (fire vehicles) and increase the potential to suffer mechanical damage. This in turn can lead to a vehicle being placed out of service for considerable periods of time. Aside from the costs associated with repairs, there is a decrease in the resources available to respond to other emergency situations.”

CONTACT

Roman Oleksij, Supervisor, Traffic Operations - Etobicoke York District
Phone: 416-392-7892; Fax: 416-394-8942
Email: roleksij@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

John Niedra, P.Eng.,
Director, Transportation Services - Etobicoke York District

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment No 1: Appendix A
Attachment No 2: Map

Appendix A

Traffic Calming Warrant Criteria

Hickory Tree Road between Lawrence Avenue West and Bellevue Crescent

Warrant	Criterion	Requirement	Met/Not Met	
Warrant 1 Petition	1.1 Petition	A petition requesting traffic calming must be signed by at least 25% of households on the street. OR A direct request from the Ward Councillor. Warrants #2 and #3 will not be considered until Warrant #1 is satisfied.	Met – direct request from Ward Councillor	
Impacts to Adjacent Streets		No significant traffic impacts on adjacent streets	Met –there should be no traffic spill-over to other streets given the configuration of streets in the area	
Warrant 2 Safety Requirements (all three criteria must be fulfilled to satisfy this Warrant)	2.1 sidewalks	Continuous sidewalks on at least one side of the street (both sides for collector streets or higher classification). OR Where there are no sidewalks, the installation of sidewalk on at least one side of the street must have first been considered	Met – continuous sidewalk on one side of Hickory Tree Road	
	2.2 Road Grade	Road grade 5% or less OR Between 5% and 8% road grade may be considered. Investigation must determine installation to be safe.	Met – Road grade of Hickory Tree Road is less than 8%	
	2.3 Emergency Response	No significant Impacts on Emergency Services (as determined in consultation with Emergency Services (Fire, Ambulance and Police) staff.	Not Met – General objections from Toronto Fire, Ambulance and Police	
Warrant 3 Technical Requirements (all four criteria must be fulfilled to satisfy this warrant)	3.1 Minimum Speed	85 th percentile speed is a minimum of 10 km/h (but less than 15 km/h) over a warranted 40 km/h speed limit, and the traffic volume requirements of Warrant 3.2 must be fulfilled. OR On streets where the 85 th percentile speed exceeds a warranted 40 km/h speed limit by a minimum of 15 km/h, there is no minimum volume required in warrant 3.2.	Met – Speed studies show 85 th percentile as 50 km/h	
	3.2 Min. and Max. Traffic Volume	Local Roads Traffic volume between 1,000 Veh/day and 8,000 Veh/day	Collector Roads Traffic volume between 2,500 Veh/day and 8,000 Veh/day	Met – Collector with approximately 6000 Veh/day
	3.3 Minimum Street Segment Length between stop controls	Street segment length must exceed 120 meters between stop controls (signals or stop signs)		Met – Street segments exceed 120 metres
	3.4 Transit Service	Impacts on regularly scheduled Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) services will not be significant (as determined in consultation with TTC staff)		Met – No TTC service