



**STAFF REPORT  
ACTION REQUIRED**

**Macpherson Avenue – Traffic Calming**

<b>Date:</b>	July 25, 2007
<b>To:</b>	Toronto and East York Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District
<b>Wards:</b>	St. Paul’s, Ward 22
<b>Reference Number:</b>	Ts07160te.top.doc

**SUMMARY**

---

This staff report is about a matter which Community Council has been delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision. Transportation Services staff have investigated installing traffic calming to address residents’ concerns with the speed of traffic on Macpherson Avenue, between Avenue Road and Rathnelly Avenue.

Our assessment indicates that the speeds on the street are already below a level which would benefit from traffic calming. Therefore, speed humps should not be installed on Macpherson Avenue at this time.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

---

**Transportation Services recommends to Toronto and East York Community Council that:**

1. traffic calming not be installed on Macpherson Avenue, between Avenue Road and Rathnelly Avenue.

**Financial Impact**

The adoption of the above-noted recommendation will not result in any financial impact. If, however, Toronto and East York Community Council decides speed humps on Macpherson Avenue, between Avenue Road and Rathnelly Avenue would be beneficial, the following financial impact will result:

1. The estimated cost for installing three speed humps would be \$9,000.00. Funds in the amount of \$750,000.00 have been allocated in the 2007 Transportation Services

Capital Budget for traffic calming initiatives. Installing speed humps on Macpherson Avenue would be subject to competing priorities and funding availability.

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

At the request of Councillor Michael Walker, Transportation Services studied Macpherson Avenue between Avenue Road and Rathnelly Avenue to determine whether traffic calming devices would address concerns with current traffic operations.

## **COMMENTS**

Macpherson Avenue, between Avenue Road and Rathnelly Avenue, is a local street that operates one-way westbound with a legal speed limit of 40 km/h on a pavement width of 7.3 metres. There is no TTC service on this street.

Vehicle speeds and traffic volume are the prime criteria for installing traffic calming devices. Other factors, including road width, pedestrian facilities and gradient are also considered in the assessment.

Toronto Police Service collision records indicate that no speed-related collisions were reported during a three-year period ending March 31, 2007.

Macpherson Avenue, between Avenue Road and Rathnelly Avenue does not meet all the criteria for installing traffic calming devices. Specifically, the operating speed of 43 km/h is less than the required 10km/h over the posted speed limit. In addition, the average speed recorded on Macpherson Avenue was 34 km/h. Therefore, installing speed humps on Macpherson Avenue, between Avenue Road and Rathnelly Avenue, is not warranted.

Appendix A outlines the assessment of the technical criteria in more detail.

## **Alternate recommendations**

If, despite the findings above, the Toronto and East York Community Council determines that installing speed humps on Macpherson Avenue, between Avenue Road and Rathnelly Avenue would be beneficial, it may approve the following:

1. Transportation Services poll eligible householders on Macpherson Avenue, between Avenue Road and Rathnelly Avenue to determine whether residents support the installation of speed humps, in accordance with the City of Toronto Traffic Calming Policy; and
2. subject to favourable results of the poll;
  - (a) The City Solicitor prepare a by-law to alter sections of the roadway on Macpherson Avenue, between Avenue Road and Rathnelly Avenue for traffic calming purposes, generally as the speed hump plan that Transportation Services circulated to residents during the polling process shows; and

- (b) Transportation Services take the necessary actions to reduce the speed limit from forty kilometres per hour to thirty kilometres per hour on Macpherson Avenue, between Avenue Road and Rathnelly Avenue, when the speed humps are installed.

### **Conduct poll**

The City of Toronto Traffic Calming Policy stipulates householders who would be directly affected by installing speed humps on Macpherson Avenue must be formally polled. A minimum response of 50 percent plus one ballot is established, of which at least 60 percent of the responding households must be in favour of installing speed humps in order to proceed with the installation. Accordingly, subject to approval by Toronto and East York Community Council of the alternate recommendations outlined above, Transportation Services would poll householders on Macpherson Avenue, between Avenue Road and Rathnelly Avenue and would report the results to Councillor Walker. If the poll supports installing speed humps on this section of Macpherson Avenue, Transportation Services staff would schedule installation based on relative need and competing priorities.

### **Relative Priority and Other Impacts**

Relative need and the priority of installing speed humps is based on a technical assessment of traffic volume, vehicle speed percentages, speed-related collisions, and the presence of schools, parks, seniors' residences or bicycle routes. Macpherson Avenue between Avenue Road and Rathnelly Avenue scored 17 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.

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.

## **Emergency Services Comments**

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 proposal does not unduly affect their operations. Toronto Fire Services, in a letter dated July 18, 2007 (Appendix B), have advised that they are opposed to this proposed installation of speed humps, as they would slow their responding vehicles and affect their ability to deliver service in the quickest possible manner.

## **CONTACT**

Randy Hillis, Transportation Technologist  
Traffic Operations, Toronto and East York District  
Phone: (416) 338-5430  
Fax: (416) 392-1920  
E-mail: rhillis@toronto.ca

## **SIGNATURE**

Andrew Koropeski, P.Eng.  
Director, Transportation Services

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Drawing No. 421F-9010, dated July 2007  
Appendix A - Table 1: Traffic Calming Warrant Criteria  
Appendix B – Letter from Toronto Fire Service, dated July 18, 2007

P:\2007\Cluster B\TRA\Toronto and East York\top\ts07160te.top.doc – cag