

O’Connor Drive – 40 km/h Speed Limit

Date:	October 16, 2007
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District
Wards:	Beaches-East York, Ward 31
Reference Number:	Ts07220te.top.doc

SUMMARY

Transportation Services is requesting approval to lower the maximum speed limit from 50 km/h to 40 km/h on O’Connor Drive between Northline Road and Skopje Gate. Investigation indicated a significant amount of speeding occurs on this section of O’Connor Drive in proximity to O’Connor Drive Public School. Reducing the speed limit could promote lower operating speeds and enhance safety for school children.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that City Council:

1. reduce the speed limit from 50 km/h to 40 km/h on O’Connor Drive, from Northline Road to Skopje Gate.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Type of funding	Source of funds	Amount
Available within current budget	Toronto Transportation Services 2007 operating budget	\$600

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Councillor Janet Davis requested Transportation Services to investigate and consider reducing the speed limit from 50 km/h to 40 km/h on O’Connor Drive to encourage motorists to drive slower and promote safety for all road users.

COMMENTS

Site Description

O'Connor Drive, between Northline Road and Skopje Gate is a major arterial road that operates two-way on a road width of 13.2 metres. The current maximum speed limit is 50 km/h. O'Connor Drive Public School is located on the east side of the street. An apartment building with a high number of seniors is on the southeast corner of O'Connor Drive and Wakunda Place. The O'Connor Village development, made up of joint residential/commercial properties built close to the road, occupies the west side of O'Connor Drive. This section of O'Connor Drive curves moderately from southwest to northeast and the road grade is about 5%. This combination reduces advance sight lines.

Stopping is prohibited on both sides from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except Public Holidays. Parking is allowed for a maximum period of three hours at other times on both sides of O'Connor Drive, between Northline Road and Wakunda Place. A pedestrian traffic signal is located on O'Connor Drive, between Wakunda Place and Skopje Gate. The O'Connor-70 TTC bus operates on O'Connor Drive with transit stops at the pedestrian signal.

Investigation

Speeding and safety for children are expressed concerns of residents in this area. Transportation Services conducted a speed and volume survey on O'Connor Drive with the following results.

- A total of 17,000 vehicles were recorded (51%, northbound/ 49%, southbound).
- The operating speed of traffic (85th percentile) is 64 km/h, northbound and 65 km/h, southbound.
- About 4,260 vehicles (25%) exceeded the speed limit by more than 10 km/h
- About 60 vehicles were recorded traveling at speeds in excess of 80 km/h
- Most incidents of excessive speeding occur between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., with hourly incidents peaking between 12:00 noon and 5:00 p.m.

This investigation confirms speeding is a problem on this section of O'Connor Drive.

Resolution

Speeding on O'Connor Drive in proximity to Northline Road needs to be addressed to enhance safety for pedestrians, particularly children who must cross O'Connor Drive in this area to/from school, and other pedestrians, including seniors, boarding TTC buses.

As an initial step, Transportation Services has requested the Toronto Police Traffic Response Unit, at 54 Division to enhance enforcement of the speed limit on O'Connor Drive, between Northline Road and Skopje Gate.

In addition, Transportation Services staff recommends lowering the maximum speed limit to 40 km/h on O'Connor Drive, from Northline Road to Skopje Gate to promote

lower operating speeds and improve safety for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists travelling or walking along this street.

CONTACT

Peter Ip, Transportation Technologist
Traffic Operations, Toronto and East York District
Phone: 416-338-5397
Fax: 416-392-1920
e-mail: pip@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Andrew Koropeski, P.Eng
Director, Transportation Services

ATTACHMENT

Drawing No. 421F-9083, dated September 2007

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