



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

Habitant Drive, between Bradstock Road and Imogene Avenue – Results of Speed Hump Poll

Date:	May 15, 2008
To:	Etobicoke York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services - Etobicoke York District
Wards:	Ward 7 - York West
Reference Number:	p:\2008\Cluster B\TRA\EtobicokeYork\eycc080078-to-AFS7823

SUMMARY

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

This report summarizes the results of the traffic calming poll undertaken on Habitant Drive between Bradstock Road and Imogene Avenue. Although the traffic calming warrants are achieved on this road and Transportation Service staff did originally recommend that a poll be conducted on this street, the results of the poll indicated a response rate of less than 50 percent plus one, and accordingly, installation of speed humps is not recommended.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that Etobicoke York Community Council:

1. Not authorize installation of speed humps on Habitant Drive between Bradstock Road and Imogene Avenue.

Financial Impact

Adoption of the above-noted recommendation has no financial impact. If Etobicoke York Community Council decides to approve installation of speed humps on Habitant Drive between Bradstock Road and Imogene Avenue, the following impact will result:

1. The estimated cost of installing four speed humps on Habitant Drive is \$12,000.00. Funds in the amount of \$295,000.00 have been allocated in the Transportation Services 2008 Capital Budget for traffic calming initiatives. The installation of speed humps on Habitant Drive between Bradstock Road and Imogene Avenue would be subject to competing priorities and funding availability.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of February 12, 2008, Etobicoke York Community Council recommended installation of speed humps on Habitant Drive between Bradstock Road and Imogene Avenue subject to a favourable poll of residents.

COMMENTS

Habitant Drive is a two lane local road located east of Weston Road and north of Sheppard Avenue West and is built to urban standards including sidewalk on the east side. A 40 km/h speed limit is currently posted on the portion of Habitant Drive between Bradstock Road and Imogene Avenue. The remaining section of Habitant Drive from Imogene Avenue to Weston Road has a legal speed limit of 50 km/h. An all-way stop is located on Habitant Drive at Imogene Avenue. In addition, four pinch points are located on Habitant Drive between Bradstock Road and Imogene Avenue (Attachment No. 1).

Transportation Services staff have met with Councillor Giorgio Mammoliti, Ward 7, York West, to discuss the results of the poll conducted on Habitant Drive between Bradstock Road and Imogene Avenue. As a result of this meeting, staff was requested to report on the results of the poll regarding the installation of speed humps on Habitant Drive between Bradstock Road and Imogene Avenue, which was conducted in March/April 2008.

The Traffic Calming Policy, adopted by City Council requires, among other matters, staff to undertake a poll of eligible voters on streets being considered for traffic calming and consult with Emergency Services.

With respect to the poll:

- a return rate of 50 percent plus one ballot; and
- a support rate of at least 60 percent of the valid ballots received is stipulated.

The poll results for Habitant Drive between Bradstock Road and Imogene Avenue are as follows.

Poll results

Number of ballots mailed out	183	
Number of ballots returned by Post Office	10	
Number of eligible voters	173	100 percent
Number of responses required	88	50 percent plus one ballot
Number of ballots returned	54	31 percent
Number in favour of speed humps	47	87 percent of those that responded
Number opposed to speed humps	7	13 percent of those that responded
Number of spoiled ballots	7	
No reply	112	

In light of the polling results, which did not obtain the minimum response rate (50% plus one, as indicated in the above table), speed humps should not be installed on Habitant Drive between Bradstock Road and Imogene Avenue.

Consultation with Emergency Services

Fire Services has responded to our original request for comments in February 2008. They have indicated, as they have in past request, that speed humps do impact their response time. We stated in our original report that:

“...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 vehicles (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.”

Notification of residents

Under the current polling policy, residents of Habitant Drive between Bradstock Road and Imogene Avenue have been notified in writing by the City Clerk that the speed hump poll on this street did not satisfy the required criteria and that any follow-up poll cannot be conducted for a period of two years. Residents have not specifically been told speed humps will not be installed, but may interpret the failure of the poll as the final decision on this matter.

Alternate recommendations

The factors respecting installation of speed humps on Habitant Drive between Bradstock Road and Imogene Avenue are outlined in the January 7, 2008 staff report. If Etobicoke York Community Council wishes to proceed with the installation of speed humps, it should adopt the following alternate recommendations:

1. The City Solicitor prepare a draft by-law for installing four speed humps on Habitant Drive between Bradstock Road and Imogene Avenue, generally as shown on Drawing No. EY07-359, dated December 2007; and
2. Reduce the speed limit on Habitant Drive between Bradstock Road and Imogene Avenue from 40 km/h to 30 km/h, upon installation of the speed humps.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment No. 1: Map