

## **Proposed Speed Limit Reduction on Danforth Road From St. Clair Avenue East to Midland Avenue**

<b>Date:</b>	March 17, 2008
<b>To:</b>	Scarborough Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Director, Transportation Services, Scarborough District
<b>Wards:</b>	Ward 35 – Scarborough Southwest
<b>Reference Number:</b>	P:\2007\Cluster B\TRA\Scarborough\sc08027 D07-2596 Danforth Road Speed Reduction

### **SUMMARY**

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This staff report is about a matter for which the Community Council does not have delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision.

This report provides the results of traffic studies conducted on Danforth Road, where a 50 kilometre per hour (km/h) speed limit is technically not justified and not recommended for implementation on the portion of Danforth Road from St. Clair Avenue East to Midland Avenue.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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**Transportation Services, Scarborough District, recommends that Scarborough Community Council:**

1. Not implement a 50 kilometre per hour speed limit on Danforth Road from St. Clair Avenue east to Midland Avenue.

## **Financial Impact**

There is no financial impact related to the adoption of this report.

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

Further to a request from Councillor Adrian Heaps, regarding speeding concerns on Danforth Road between St. Clair Avenue East and Midland Avenue, Transportation Services staff reviewed the feasibility of reducing the speed limit from 60 km/h to 50 km/h on this roadway.

The justification for introducing a 50 km/h speed limit is based on the Warrant for Implementing a Permanent 50 km/h Maximum Speed Limit on Arterial Roads, which is a Traffic Operations practise.

It is important to note that the results of our speed study on Danforth Road, east of Hart Avenue revealed average 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds of 68 km/h. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is a tool used by the traffic engineering profession in establishing realistic speed limits for roadways. It is the speed at or below which the majority of motorists feel comfortable travelling on a given section of roadway, taking into consideration traffic volumes and surrounding conditions, and is considered to be a safe operating speed for the vast majority.

Accordingly, our speed study results clearly substantiate that the existing 60 km/h speed limit is the most appropriate speed limit for this roadway, and that a lower speed limit would be considered unreasonably low by reasonable and prudent motorists. As a result, a reduction in the speed limit on this section of Danforth Avenue is not recommended.

## **COMMENTS**

The following characteristics describe the subject portion of Danforth Road between St. Clair Avenue East and Midland Avenue:

- This road is located in the community south of Eglinton Avenue East, north of CN/CP railway corridor.
- This portion of Danforth Road has two lanes in each direction and is a major arterial roadway with a speed limit of 60 km/h and a daily traffic volume of approximately 22,000 vehicles per day. The subject portion of roadway is approximately 1.0 kilometres in length and has a relatively straight alignment.
- A 24-hour speed study conducted June 23, 2005 on Danforth Road, east of Hart Avenue indicate an average 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 68 km/h..
- The area has primarily residential single family dwellings with some multi-level buildings.
- This portion has a pavement width of 14.6 metres, and sidewalks are located adjacent to the curb on both sides.
- This portion was considered for a localized improvement of a Centre Left Turn Lane but the roadway is too narrow to accommodate this configuration.
- Traffic control signals are located on Danforth Road at St. Clair Avenue East, at Norman Cook Junior Public School, just east of Hart Avenue, and at Midland Avenue.

- The TTC has regularly scheduled all-day bus service on Danforth Road.
- This portion of Danforth Road has a No Parking 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Fridays, regulation on both sides of the roadway.

## **Warrants for Implementing a Permanent 50 km/h Maximum Speed Limit on Arterial Roads**

Application of this warrant reveals that a 50 km/h speed limit is not justified on Danforth Avenue between St. Clair Avenue East and Midland Avenue. Specifically, the “85<sup>th</sup> Percentile Speed is less than 60 km/h” criteria, as well as several other criteria, are not met. A 24-hour speed study conducted on Thursday, June 23, 2005, east of Hart Avenue indicate an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 68 km/h.

As outlined in the attached Table 1, the introduction of a 50 km/h speed limit is not justified on the subject section of Danforth Road. In addition the attached Table 2 has information and a diagram with comments on setting unreasonably low speed limits.

It should be noted that if Community Council still wishes to approve the implementation of a 50 kilometre per hour speed limit at this location, then an additional recommendation to “pass or amend the appropriate by-law(s) accordingly” would be required.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Location Plan (Existing Conditions Danforth Road from St. Clair Avenue to Midland Avenue)
2. Table 1 - Warrants for Implementing a Permanent 50 km/h Maximum Speed Limit on Arterial Roads
3. Table 2 - Comments on Setting Unreasonably Low Speed Limits