



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

Traffic Calming – Heward Avenue, between Queen Street East and Eastern Avenue

Date:	August 1, 2008
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District
Wards:	Toronto-Danforth, Ward 30
Reference Number:	Ts08142te.top.doc

SUMMARY

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

Transportation Services staff have investigated installing traffic calming on Heward Avenue, between Queen Street East and Eastern Avenue, to address residents’ concerns with the speed of traffic.

Staff’s assessment indicates the criteria as set out in the Traffic Calming Policy has not been met. Therefore, the installation of speed humps on this section of Heward Avenue is not recommended at this time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Traffic calming not be installed on Heward Avenue, between Queen Street East and Eastern 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 Heward Avenue would be beneficial, the following financial impact will result:

1. The estimated cost for installing 4 speed humps would be \$12,000.00. Funds in the amount of \$265,000.00 have been allocated in the Transportation Services 2008 Capital Budget for traffic calming initiatives. Installing speed humps on Heward Avenue would be subject to competing priorities and funding availability.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

At the request of Councillor Paula Fletcher, Transportation Services staff studied Heward Avenue, between Queen Street East and Eastern Avenue, to determine whether traffic calming devices would address concerns with current traffic operations.

COMMENTS

Heward Avenue, between Queen Street East and Eastern Avenue, is a local street operating one-way southbound with a speed limit of 50 km/h and a pavement width of 7.5 metres. Sidewalks exist on both sides of the roadway and the road grade is less than 5 percent. This section of Heward Avenue is stop controlled at its intersection with Eastern Avenue.

Analysis

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

Heward Avenue, between Queen Street East and Eastern Avenue, does not meet all the criteria for installing traffic calming devices. Specifically, the operating speed (40 km/h) is less than 10 kilometres per hour over the 50 kilometre per hour speed limit and the traffic volume (427 vehicles/day) is less than 1,000 vehicles/day. Therefore, installing speed humps on Heward Avenue, between Queen Street East and Eastern Avenue, is not warranted.

Our review of the Toronto Police Service collision records for a three-year period ending April 30, 2008 found no reported collisions on this section of Heward Avenue attributed to speeding.

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

Alternate recommendations

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

1. Transportation Services poll eligible householders on Heward Avenue, between Queen Street East and Eastern Avenue, to determine whether residents support the installation, 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 Heward Avenue, between Queen Street East and Eastern Avenue for traffic calming purposes, generally as shown on the copy of Drawing No. 421F-9283, dated August 2008; and
- b. Transportation Services take the necessary action to reduce the speed limit from fifty kilometres per hour to thirty kilometres per hour on Heward Avenue, between Queen Street East and Eastern Avenue, when the speed humps are installed.

Conduct poll

The City of Toronto Traffic Calming Policy stipulates residents who would be directly affected by installing speed humps on this section of Heward Avenue must be formally polled. A minimum response of 50 percent plus one ballot is established, of which at least 60 percent of the respondents 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 eligible residents on this section of Heward Avenue. If the poll supports speed humps on Heward Avenue, between Queen Street East and Eastern 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 speed hump installation 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. This section of Heward Avenue scored 9 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.

Speed humps would 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 emergency operations. Staff has consulted with emergency services and been advised by the Toronto Fire Service, in a letter dated July 4, 2008 (Appendix B, attached), that they oppose installation of speed humps on Heward Avenue, as they will slow responding vehicles and affect their ability to deliver service in the quickest possible manner. Further, Toronto Emergency Medical Services, in a letter dated July 15, 2008 (Appendix C, attached), have indicated that they do not support this traffic calming measure, as it will affect their response times and could prove detrimental to the medical

conditions of some patients. No specific comments have been received from the Toronto Police Service at this time.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Andrew Koropeski, P.Eng.
Director, Transportation Services

ATTACHMENTS

Drawing No. 421F-9283, dated August 2008
Appendix A - Table 1: Traffic Calming Warrant Criteria
Appendix B – Letter from Fire Services
Appendix C – Letter from Emergency Medical Services

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