



**STAFF REPORT  
ACTION REQUIRED**

**Russell Hill Road, between Lonsdale Road and St. Clair Avenue West – Results of Speed Hump Poll**

<b>Date:</b>	September 4, 2008
<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>	Ts08159te.top.doc

**SUMMARY**

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

This report summarizes the results of the traffic calming poll undertaken on Russell Hill Road, between Lonsdale Road and St. Clair Avenue West. The poll results indicated that less than 60 percent of the residents who responded to the poll were in favour of the installation of speed humps. Accordingly, installation of speed humps is not recommended on Russell Hill Road, between Lonsdale Road and St. Clair Avenue West.

However, at the request of Councillor Michael Walker, a breakdown of the poll results was undertaken to determine how the residents of Russell Hill Road voted on each of the two blocks located between Lonsdale Road and St. Clair Avenue West.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. Not authorize installation of speed humps on Russell Hill Road, between Lonsdale Road and St. Clair Avenue West.

**Financial Impact**

Adoption of the above-noted recommendation has no financial impact. If Toronto and East York Community Council decides to approve the installation of speed humps on Russell Hill Road, the following financial impact will result:

1. The estimated cost of installing three speed humps on Russell Hill Road, between Heath Street West and St. Clair Avenue West is \$9,000. Funds in the amount of \$265,000 are contained in the Transportation Services 2008 Capital Budget for traffic calming initiatives. The installation of speed humps on Russell Hill Road is subject to competing priorities and funding availability.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

At its meeting of June 10, 2008, Toronto and East York Community Council recommended installation of speed humps on Russell Hill Road subject to a favourable poll of residents (Item No. TE16.24).

## **COMMENTS**

Councillor Michael Walker requested Transportation Services to report the results of the poll conducted in July/August 2008 regarding the installation of speed humps on Russell Hill Road.

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 Russell Hill Road are as follows:

### **Poll results**

Number of ballots mailed out	172	100 percent
Number of responses	<b>98</b>	<b>57 percent</b>
Number of ballots in favour	50	51 percent
Number of ballots opposed	47	48 percent
Number of ballots spoiled	1	1 percent
Number of ballots not returned	74	43 percent

In light of the polling results, which did not obtain the minimum response rate (50 percent plus one, as indicated in the above table), installation of speed humps on Russell Hill Road, between Lonsdale Road and St. Clair Avenue West is not recommended.

### **Consultation with Emergency Services**

The City's traffic calming policy requires consultation with Emergency Services (Police, Fire, and Emergency Medical Services). We received specific comments from Toronto Emergency Medical Services regarding the installation of speed humps on Russell Hill

Road in the form of a letter dated May 30, 2008. A copy of the letter is attached as Appendix “B.”

### **Notification of residents**

Under the current polling policy, residents of Russell Hill Road 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.

Subsequent to this notification, Councillor Walker requested that we provide the results of the traffic calming poll on Russell Hill Road, separately on each of the two blocks located between Lonsdale Road and St. Clair Avenue West. The poll results on the two blocks of Russell Hill Road are shown in the attached charts.

#### **Lonsdale Road to Heath Street West:**

Number of responses	<b>45</b>	<b>65 percent</b>
Number of ballots in favour	13	28 percent
Number of ballots opposed	31	68 percent
Number of ballots spoiled	1	2 percent

#### **Heath Street West to St. Clair Avenue West:**

Number of responses	<b>53</b>	<b>51 percent</b>
Number of ballots in favour	37	70 percent
Number of ballots opposed	16	30 percent
Number of ballots spoiled	0	0 percent

There is a clear difference of opinion on this issue between residents north and south of Heath Street West. Residents between St. Clair Avenue West and Heath Street West indicate a strong support for installation of speed humps, while residents between Heath Street West and Lonsdale Road are strongly opposed to installation.

### **Alternate Recommendations**

If Toronto and East York Community Council wishes to proceed with the installation of speed humps, only on the section of Russell Hill Road, south of Heath Street, the following alternate recommendations should be adopted.

1. The City Solicitor prepare a draft by-law for installing three speed humps on Russell Hill Road, between Heath Street West and St. Clair Avenue West, generally as shown on the attached Drawing No. 421F-9415, dated August 2008; and

2. Reduce the speed limit on Russell Hill Road, between Heath Street West and St. Clair Avenue West from 40 to 30 km/h, upon installation of the speed humps.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

Andrew Koropeski, P.Eng.  
Director, Transportation Services

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Drawing No. 421F-9415, dated August 2008  
Appendix A – Letter from Emergency Medical Services, dated May 30, 2008