



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

Traffic Calming – Grace Street

Date:	January 15, 2009
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District
Wards:	Trinity-Spadina, Ward 19
Reference Number:	Ts09012te.top.doc

SUMMARY

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

Transportation Services has investigated installing speed humps on Grace Street, between Harbord Street and College Street, 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, installation of speed humps on Grace Street is not recommended.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Not authorize installation of speed humps on Grace Street, between Harbord Street and College Street.

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 Grace Street, between Harbord Street and College Street, would be beneficial, the following financial impact will result:

1. The estimated cost for installing seven speed humps would be \$21,000.00. Funds have been allocated in the Transportation Services 2009 Capital Budget for traffic calming initiatives. Installing speed humps on Grace Street is subject to competing priorities and funding availability.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

At the request of Deputy Mayor Joe Pantalone, Transportation Services investigated Grace Street, between Harbord Street and College Street, to determine whether installation of speed humps is justified to address concerns with current traffic operations.

COMMENTS

Grace Street, between Harbord Street and College Street, is a collector roadway that operates one-way in the southbound direction. It has a daily one-way traffic flow of approximately 3,700 vehicles and a speed limit of 40 km/h. Heavy trucks are prohibited on Grace Street at all times. There are no intersecting streets between Harbord Street and College Street. Sidewalks are provided on both sides of the roadway. There is no TTC service on this street.

Analysis

The Toronto Police Service collision records indicate that no speed-related collisions have been reported on Grace Street for a three-year period ending July 15, 2008.

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

Grace Street, between Harbord Street and College Street, does not meet the criteria stipulated in the City of Toronto's Traffic Calming Policy for installing speed humps as the operating speed on Grace Street, between Harbord Street and College Street, of 40 km/h is less than the required 10 km/h over the warranted 40 km/h speed limit.

Therefore, installing speed humps on Grace Street, between Harbord Street and College Street, is not technically warranted or recommended.

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

Alternate recommendations

If, despite the findings above, the Toronto and East York Community Council determines that installing speed humps on Grace Street, between Harbord Street and College Street, would be beneficial, it should adopt the following:

1. Transportation Services poll eligible householders on Grace Street, between Harbord Street and College Street, to determine whether residents support the installation of speed humps, 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 a section of the roadway on Grace Street, between Harbord Street and College Street, for traffic calming purposes, generally as shown on the copies of Drawing Nos. 421F-9536 and 421F-9537, dated January 2009 that Transportation Services circulated to residents during the polling process; and
 - (b) Transportation Services take the necessary action to reduce the speed limit from forty kilometres per hour to thirty kilometres per hour on Grace Street, between Harbord Street and College Street, 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 Grace Street must be formally polled. A minimum response of 50 percent plus one ballot is required, of which at least 60 percent of the respondents must support installing speed humps in order to proceed with the installation. Subject to approval by Toronto and East York Community Council of the alternate recommendations outlined above, Transportation Services would poll eligible residents on Grace Street, between Harbord Street and College Street. If the poll supports speed humps, Transportation Services would schedule installation based on relative need and competing priorities.

Relative Priority and Other Impacts

Relative need and 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. Grace Street, between Harbord Street and College Street, scored 11 ranking points out of a possible 100.

No alterations to parking regulations are required, nor would the number of parking spaces be affected, by the installation of speed humps. Installation of speed humps will have minimal effect on winter services, street cleaning and garbage collection.

Speed humps will 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 their operations. We have advised emergency services that the subject location is being considered for the installation of traffic calming. The Toronto Police Service has indicated they are not in favour of speed humps on Grace Street. We have not received any other comments back at this time.

CONTACT

Dan Clement, Transportation Technologist
Traffic Operations, Toronto and East York District
Phone: (416) 338-5454
Fax: (416) 392-1920
e-mail: dclemen@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Andrew Koropeski, P.Eng.
Director, Transportation Services

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Drawing No. 421F-9536, dated January 2009
- (2) Drawing No. 421F-9537, dated January 2009
- (3) Appendix A - Table 1: Traffic Calming Warrant Criteria

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