

# Appendix A



Emergency Planning  
Research & Development

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Fire Services  
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2008 July 16

Mr. Ron Hamilton  
Manager  
Traffic Operations  
Toronto and East York District, West Area  
17<sup>th</sup> Floor, Metro Hall  
55 John Street  
Toronto, Ontario M5V 3C6

**Re: Traffic Calming Measures – Millwood Road between Harwood Road and Forman Avenue – Evaluation for the Installation of Speed Humps**

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

I am in receipt of the proposal for installation of traffic calming measures (speed humps). I have the following comments.

Toronto Fire Services is supportive of initiatives that will improve the life safety for citizens of and visitors to the City of Toronto. Our concern is that the physical calming measures being proposed may negatively impact emergency response to the area.

Fire Services is opposed to this speed hump installation as they will slow our responding vehicles and affect our ability to deliver service in the quickest possible manner. The effectiveness of our services is directly proportional to time it takes to receive notification, travel to the incident and begin operations. The vertical restrictions imposed by speed humps have a much greater effect on large fire vehicles than smaller passenger vehicles. Response time increases with every obstacle a fire vehicle encounters enroute 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. A thirty-second delay (3 to 4 humps) is enough to alter the outcome of an incident from a successful fire extinguishment with minimal property damage and rescue of all occupants to complete structure loss with fire fatalities.

It is imperative that the individuals directly affected by this installation be made fully aware of the potential negative effects of the proposed calming devices, **particularly because this application does not even meet the criteria as set out in the Policy for speed humps**. Careful consideration must be given to accepting delays of emergency response vehicles as a trade-off to combat the risks presented by regular vehicle traffic.

Fire Services recommends that non-physical measures (speed limits or prohibited turns) be implemented and evaluated before physical forms are considered. Desired results may be obtained without imposing a physical obstruction to emergency vehicles. The impact of a speed hump installed in a segment of a street is difficult to evaluate without accounting for all measures that exist on the surrounding streets. It is our opinion that traffic calming measures need to be evaluated on network-wide basis to better assess the impact to the entire response area.

Regards,



Robert I. Leek, CET  
District Chief  
Emergency Planning Research & Development  
Toronto Fire Services

cc: Councillor Michael Walker  
Randy Hillis, Engineering Technologist  
Norm Ferrier, Senior EMS Planner, Emergency Medical Services, Ambulance Services  
Division  
Chief William Blair, Toronto Police Services, Attn: Staff Inspector Larry Sinclair, 53  
Division  
TFS EPRD File # 08-0112.0008

Appendix B



## Toronto Police Service

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(416) 808-2222 FAX (416) 808-8202  
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William Blair  
Chief of Police

File Number: .....

July 22, 2008

Ron Hamilton  
Manager-Traffic Operations  
Toronto and East York District, West Area  
17<sup>th</sup> Floor, Metro Hall  
55 John Street  
Toronto, Ontario M5V 3C6

Dear Mr Hamilton

**Re: Your letter dated 2008, July 14 - Harwood Road and Forman Avenue –  
Request for the Installation of Speed Humps**

Please be advised that the Toronto Police Service is not generally in favour of speed humps as they impede the response time of emergency vehicles.

Regards,

Tony Riviere  
Staff Sergeant  
Community Response Unit  
53 Division

TR:ds



Bruce K. Farr  
Chief and General Manager

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July 25, 2008

Randy Hillis  
Engineering Technologist  
17<sup>th</sup> Floor, Metro Hall  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5V 3C6

Dear Randy,

**Re: Millwood Road, between Harwood Road and Forman Avenue  
Evaluation for the Installation of Speed Humps**

We are in receipt of your letter dated June 20, 2008 regarding the request for Toronto Emergency Medical Services' (EMS) position on the installation of speed bumps on Winners Circle.

We recognize that this is a very sensitive issue as the citizens of Toronto feel the installation of speed bumps act as a traffic calming measure which will provide added safety to their communities.

Toronto EMS is on record as not supporting the installation of speed bumps (narrow asphalt bumps consisting of a steep vertical rise). This traffic calming measure will affect an ambulance's response time to an emergency call and subsequent transportation to the hospital. This in itself could prove detrimental to the medical conditions of some patients.

Toronto EMS supports the rights of communities that choose to install traffic calming measures (i.e., speed humps and traffic circles) for the safety of their families and neighbourhoods, and will continue to work with the City and its agencies to improve public health and safety.

Yours sincerely,

Bruce K. Farr  
Chief and General Manager  
Toronto Emergency Medical Services

BKF/GW/lc

c.: Councillor Sandra Bussin