



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Traffic Calming – Hocken Avenue

Date:	May 26, 2009
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District
Wards:	St. Paul's, Ward 21
Reference Number:	Ts09105te.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 Hocken Avenue, between Vaughan Road and Wychwood 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, installation of speed humps on Hocken Avenue is not recommended.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Not authorize installation of speed humps on Hocken Avenue, between Vaughan Road and Wychwood 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 Hocken Avenue, between Vaughan Road and Wychwood Avenue, would be beneficial, the following financial impact will result:

1. The estimated cost for installing three humps would be \$9,000.00. Funds in the amount of \$410,000.00 are contained in the Transportation Services 2009 Capital

Budget for traffic calming initiatives. Installing speed humps on Hocken Avenue is subject to competing priorities and funding availability.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

At the request of Councillor Joe Mihevc, Transportation Services investigated Hocken Avenue, between Vaughan Road and Wychwood Avenue, to determine whether the installation of speed humps is justified to address concerns with current traffic operations.

COMMENTS

Hocken Avenue, between Vaughan Road and Wychwood Avenue, is a local roadway that operates two-way. It has a daily traffic volume of approximately 570 vehicles and a speed limit of 40 km/h. Sidewalks are provided on the south side of the roadway. There is no TTC service on this street.

Analysis

A review of the Toronto Police Service collision records revealed that there were two collisions reported on this section of Hocken Avenue for a three-year period ending January 31, 2009. None of these collisions could have been attributed to speeding.

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.

Hocken Avenue, between Vaughan Road and Wychwood Avenue, does not meet the criteria stipulated in the City of Toronto's Traffic Calming Policy for installing speed humps. Specifically, the operating speed recorded on Hocken Avenue was 41 km/h. This is less than the required 10 km/h over the warranted (40 km/h) speed limit and the vehicular volume recorded was 570 vehicles, which is less than the minimum threshold of 1000 vehicles per day.

Installing speed humps on Hocken Avenue, between Vaughan Road and Wychwood Avenue, 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 Hocken Avenue, between Vaughan Road and Wychwood Avenue, would be beneficial, it should adopt the following:

1. Transportation Services poll eligible householders on Hocken Avenue, between Vaughan Road and Wychwood Avenue, 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 the section of the roadway on Hocken Avenue, between Vaughan Road and Wychwood Avenue, for traffic calming purposes, generally as shown on the attached copy of drawing No. 421F-9680, dated May 2009; and
- (b) Transportation Services take the necessary action to reduce the speed limit from forty kilometres per hour to thirty kilometres per hour on Hocken Avenue, between Vaughan Road and Wychwood 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 Hocken Avenue 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 Hocken Avenue, between Vaughan Road and Wychwood Avenue. 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. Hocken Avenue, between Vaughan Road and Wychwood Avenue, scored 6 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. Attached is a copy of a letter dated May 13, 2009, from Toronto Fire Services. We have not received any other comments back at this time.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Peter Noehammer, P.Eng.
Director, Transportation Services

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Drawing No. 421F-9680, dated May 2009
- (2) Appendix A - Table 1: Traffic Calming Warrant Criteria
- (3) Appendix B – Letter dated May 13, 2009, Toronto Fire Services

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