



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Speed limit reduction - Morse Street

Date:	August 14, 2009
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District
Wards:	Toronto-Danforth, Ward 30
Reference Number:	Ts09129te.top.doc

SUMMARY

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

Transportation Services is requesting approval to reduce the speed limit on Morse Street between Eastern Avenue and Queen Street East from 50 km/h to 40 km/h. A 40 km/h speed limit is consistent with the warrant criteria approved by City Council and will enhance safety for all road users, especially school children.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Approve a 40 km/h maximum speed limit on Morse Street between Eastern Avenue and Queen Street East.

Financial Impact

Type of Funding	Source of Funds	Amount
Available within current budget	Transportation Services Division 2009 Operating Budget	\$300.00

ISSUE BACKGROUND

In response to a request from Councillor Paula Fletcher, Transportation Services completed a traffic study on Morse Street between Eastern Avenue and Queen Street East.

COMMENTS

Morse Street is a 7.3 metre wide local road operating one-way northbound between Eastern Avenue and Queen Street East, one block west of Carlaw Avenue. The maximum speed limit along this section of Morse Street is 50 km/h. Morse Street Public School is situated mid-block on the east side of Morse Street. TTC service is not present on Morse Street.

The following parking regulations are in effect on Morse Street, between Eastern Avenue and Queen Street East.

West side

- no parking anytime;

East side

- no parking anytime between Queen Street East and a point 47 metres south;
- no parking 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, between a point 47 metres south of Queen Street East and a point 126.5 metres further south; and
- one-hour maximum parking limit 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., between Eastern Avenue and a point 122 metres north thereof.

Parking is otherwise allowed on the east side of Morse Street for a maximum period of three hours outside of the hours of permit parking operation between 12:01 a.m. and 7:00 a.m., daily.

Transportation Services staff conducted a mid-block speed and volume traffic study on the subject section of Morse Street over a three-day mid-week period between March 31, and April 2, of this year, and found the vehicular operating speed to be 48 km/h. The operating speed, also known as the 85th percentile speed, is the speed at which 85 per cent of vehicles travel at or below.

A review of Toronto Police Service collision records for a three-year period ending April 15, 2009, found one reported collision on Morse Street. No injuries were reported as a result of the collision and speeding was not indicated as a factor.

Under current City Council Policy, in order for a 40 km/h speed limit to be warranted, various traffic conditions must be assessed, such as roadway width, pedestrian conditions (presence of elementary or junior high school, absence of sidewalks) and road and traffic environment (collision patterns, safe stopping distance). Transportation Services has evaluated the subject section of Morse Street against these warrant criteria and found that a 40 km/h speed limit is justified. Specifically, the pavement width is less than 10.5 metres and an elementary school abuts the street.

A 40 km/h speed limit will provide a safer road environment for all users, particularly school children, and will also be consistent with the 40 km/h speed limit posted on Carlaw Avenue between Queen Street East and Eastern Avenue.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Peter Noehammer, P. Eng.
Director, Transportation Services

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

(1) Drawing No. 421F-9742, dated August 2009

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