



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

Traffic Calming – Bingham Avenue, between Kingston Road and Gerrard Street East

Date:	October 21, 2009
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District
Wards:	Beaches-East York, Ward 32
Reference Number:	Ts09183te.top.doc

SUMMARY

Transportation Services staff have reviewed whether traffic calming is warranted on Bingham Avenue, between Kingston Road and Gerrard Street East. Our assessment indicates the criteria as set out in the traffic calming policy has not been satisfied. Therefore, speed humps should not be installed on Bingham Avenue at this time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends to City Council that:

1. Traffic calming not be installed on Bingham Avenue, between Kingston Road and Gerrard Street East.

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 Bingham Avenue, between Kingston Road and Gerrard Street East, would be beneficial, the following financial impact will result:

1. The estimated cost for installing six speed humps would be \$18,000.00. Funds in the amount of \$410,000.00 have been allocated in the Transportation Services 2009 Capital Budget for traffic calming initiatives. Installing speed humps on Bingham Avenue would be subject to competing priorities and funding availability.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

At the request of Councillor Sandra Bussin, Transportation Services staff reviewed the need for traffic calming on Bingham Avenue, between Kingston Road and Gerrard Street East.

COMMENTS

This section of Bingham Avenue is an 8.5-metres wide, local two-way roadway that runs north from Kingston Road to Gerrard Street East, one block west of Victoria Park Avenue. Bingham Avenue is stop-controlled on both ends and operates with a speed limit of 40 km/h. There is a TTC turnaround loop for the Kingston Road streetcar on the east side of Bingham Avenue, just north of Kingston Road.

Analysis

Traffic Calming

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

Bingham Avenue, between Kingston Road and Gerrard Street East, does not meet all the criteria for installing traffic-calming devices. Specifically, the operating speed of 45 km/h is below the minimum of 10 km/h over the posted speed limit that the traffic-calming policy requires. Therefore, installing speed humps on Bingham Avenue, between Kingston Road and Gerrard Street East, is not technically justified.

A review of Toronto Police Service collision records for the three-year period ending June 30, 2009 revealed that four collisions were reported on Bingham Avenue, between Kingston Road and Gerrard Street East. All of these collisions involved parked vehicles being struck by another vehicle. Vehicle speed was not identified as a causal factor in any of the collisions and none involved a pedestrian.

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

Alternate recommendations

If, despite the findings above, Toronto and East York Community Council determines that installing speed humps on Bingham Avenue, between Kingston Road and Gerrard Street East, would be beneficial, it may approve the following:

1. Transportation Services consult with Councillor Bussin to develop a speed hump plan.
2. Transportation Services poll eligible householders on Bingham Avenue, between Kingston Road and Gerrard Street East, to determine whether residents support the installation, in accordance with the City of Toronto Traffic Calming Policy.
3. Subject to favourable results of the poll:

- (a) the City Solicitor prepare a by-law to alter sections of the roadway on Bingham Avenue, between Kingston Road and Gerrard Street East, for traffic calming purposes, generally as the speed hump plan that Transportation Services circulated to residents during the polling process shows; and
- (b) Transportation Services take the necessary actions to reduce the speed limit from forty kilometres per hour to thirty kilometres per hour on Bingham Avenue, between Kingston Road and Gerrard Street East, 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 this section of Bingham Avenue must be formally polled. A minimum response of 50 percent plus one ballot is established, of which at least 60 percent of the respondents must be in favour of installing speed humps in order to proceed with the installation. Accordingly, subject to approval by Toronto and East York Community Council of the alternate recommendations outlined above, Transportation Services would poll eligible residents on this section of Bingham Avenue. If the poll supports speed humps on Bingham Avenue, Transportation Services staff would schedule installation based on relative need and competing priorities.

Relative Priority and Other Impacts

Relative need and the 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. Bingham Avenue scored twelve points out of a possible 100.

No alterations to parking regulations are required, nor would the number of parking spaces be affected, and the effects on winter services, street cleaning and garbage collection should be minimal.

Speed humps would 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. This has yet to be undertaken.

TTC Comments

Consultation with the Toronto Transit Commission determined that they have no concerns with speed humps on Bingham Avenue as long as the humps are installed north of the streetcar turnaround loop.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Peter Noehammer, P.Eng.
Director, Transportation Services

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Drawing No. 421F-9828, dated October 2009
- (2) Appendix "A" - Table 1: Traffic Calming Warrant Criteria

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