



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Traffic Calming – Bingham Avenue, between Bracken Avenue and Kingston Road

Date:	October 19, 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:	Ts09177te.top.doc

SUMMARY

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

Transportation Services staff have reviewed whether traffic calming is warranted on Bingham Avenue, between Bracken Avenue and Kingston Road. Low traffic volumes and vehicle speeds mean the criteria as set out in the traffic calming policy have not been satisfied. Therefore, speed humps should not be installed on Bingham Avenue at this time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends to Toronto and East York Community Council that:

1. Traffic calming not be installed on Bingham Avenue, between Bracken Avenue and Kingston Road.

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 Bracken Avenue and Kingston Road, would be beneficial, the following financial impact will result:

1. The estimated cost for installing three speed humps would be \$9,000.00. 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 Bracken Avenue and Kingston Road.

COMMENTS

Bingham Avenue is an 8.5-metres wide, local two-way roadway that runs north from Bracken Avenue to Kingston Road, 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 no TTC service on Bingham Avenue.

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 Bracken Avenue and Kingston Road, does not meet all the criteria for installing traffic calming devices. Specifically, the operating speed of 40 km/h is below the minimum of 10 km/h over the posted speed limit that the traffic calming policy requires. Also, the daily volume of 464 vehicles per day is less than the required minimum 1000 vehicles per day. Therefore, installing speed humps on Bingham Avenue, between Bracken Avenue and Kingston Road, is not technically justified.

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

A review of Toronto Police Service collision records for the three-year period ending May 31, 2009 revealed that one collision was reported on Bingham Avenue, between Bracken Avenue and Kingston Road. This collision involved a motorist exiting the lane on the east side of Bingham Avenue colliding with a northbound motorist. Neither motorist was injured or charged by the Toronto Police Service.

Alternate recommendations

If, despite the findings above, Toronto and East York Community Council determines that installing speed humps on Bingham Avenue, between Bracken Avenue and Kingston Road, 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 Bracken Avenue and Kingston Road, 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 Bracken Avenue and Kingston Road, 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 Bracken Avenue and Kingston Road, 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 five 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. The attached letter dated September 29, 2009 from Mainck Noormahamud, District Chief, Emergency Planning Research and Development, Toronto Fire Services, outlines their concerns with the installation of traffic calming on Bingham Avenue.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Peter Noehammer, P.Eng.
Director, Transportation Services

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Drawing No. 421F-9821, dated October 2009
- (2) Appendix A - Table 1: Traffic Calming Warrant Criteria
- (3) Appendix B – Letter from Fire Services, dated September 29, 2009

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