



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Riverbank Drive – Speed Limit Amendment

Date:	March 31, 2010
To:	Etobicoke York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services - Etobicoke York District
Wards:	Ward 4 – Etobicoke Centre
Reference Number:	p:\2010\Cluster B\TRA\EtobicokeYork\eycc100058-to

SUMMARY

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

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval to reduce the speed limit on Riverbank Drive, between Dundas Street West and Islington Avenue, from 50 km/h to 40 km/h.

A staff assessment has determined that the warrant for installing a 40 km/h speed limit is met on Riverbank Drive.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that Etobicoke York Community Council approve:

1. Enacting a 40 km/h speed limit on Riverbank Drive, between Dundas Street West and Islington Avenue.

Financial Impact

Type of Funding	Source of Funds	Amount
Available within current budget	Transportation Services Operating Budget	\$600.00

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Transportation Services staff received a request from an area resident to investigate vehicle operating speeds on Riverbank Drive. In response, speed studies were conducted by Transportation Services staff on Riverbank Drive, west of Islington Avenue. The study results are applied to the City's 40 km/h Speed Limit Warrant.

A map of the area is Attachment 1.

COMMENTS

Riverbank Drive is a two-way local road with an 8.5 metre pavement width, located in the residential community to the north of Dundas Street West, west of Islington Avenue. There are no sidewalks on either side of Riverbank Drive. The existing speed limit on Riverbank Drive is 50 km/h.

A speed and volume study was conducted on Riverbank Drive, west of Islington Avenue. The study results are shown in the following tables:

Location: Riverbank Drive						
Count Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2010						
	Eastbound			Westbound		
Time Period	Vehicle Volume	85 th %-tile Speed (km/h)	10 km/h Pace (km/h)	Vehicle Volume	85 th %-tile Speed (km/h)	10 km/h Pace (km/h)
a.m. Peak Hour	19	46		34	44	
p.m. Peak Hour	42	47		35	46	
24 Hour	226	48	34 – 43	309	46	36 – 45

The 85th percentile and 10 km/h pace speeds are statistical measures of free flow vehicle operating speed. The 85th percentile speed is the vehicle operating speed at or below which 85 per cent of all vehicle traffic is moving. Studies show that crash rates are lowest at around the 85th percentile speed. The 10 km/h pace speed represents the speed range, 10 km/h in this case, containing the highest number of observations.

Toronto Police Service collision records for a three-year period ending December 31, 2008, report no crashes on Riverbank Drive where speeding was identified as a contributing factor.

Under current Council policy, 40 km/h speed limits may be introduced on streets where the road width and either pedestrian or road and traffic environment criteria are satisfied. Riverbank Drive satisfies warrant criteria attached in Appendix A - Table 1, based on the presence of more than two horizontal curves with a safe travel speed of less than 50 km/h, and the absence of the sidewalks.

We wish to emphasize that while the combinations of speed and road width, and pedestrian/road/traffic conditions technically satisfy the warrant for reducing the speed limit on Riverbank Drive our study found no evidence of either speeding or crashes correlated with excessive speed, and that motorists appear to be driving at safe speeds suitable for a local road. Since the majority of drivers already travel at speeds considered reasonable for this classification of road, it is anticipated that non-compliance with this reduced speed limit may result in additional requests for police enforcement and more restrictive traffic control measures.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A:	Table 1
Attachment 1:	Map
Attachment 2:	Aerial Photo

APPENDIX A

40 Km/h Speed Limit Warrant – Riverbank Drive

A. ROAD WIDTH		
1.	(i)	Pavement width equal to or greater than 10.5 metres and the 85 th percentile speed is equal to or less than 50 km/h
OR		
	(ii)	Pavement width less than 10.5 metres
		PAVEMENT WIDTH: 8.5 metres 85 TH PERCENTILE SPEED: 47 km/h
		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

AND

B. PEDESTRIAN ENVIRONMENT		
1.	(i)	Elementary or junior high school abuts the road Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
OR		
	(ii)	Parkland abuts the road which is contiguous to and used to gain access to an elementary or junior high school Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
OR		
	(iii)	Absence of sidewalk on both sides of the road or a major portion of the road Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

OR

C. ROAD AND TRAFFIC ENVIRONMENT		
1.	(i)	Two or more locations where grades are greater than 5%; and/or safe speed on curves is less than 50 km/h Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
OR		
	(ii)	2 or more locations where there is lack of sufficient distance to stop safely traveling at 50 km/h Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
OR		
	(iii)	Pattern of collisions where vehicle speed was identified as a factor Local streets – 3 or more over 3 years Other streets – 5 or more over 3 years Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>