



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Valecrest 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\eycc100059-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 Valecrest Drive, from 50 km/h to 40 km/h.

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that Etobicoke York Community Council approve:

1. Enacting a 40 km/h speed limit on the entire length of Valecrest Drive, north of Edenbridge Drive.

Financial Impact

Type of Funding	Source of Funds	Amount
Available within current budget	Transportation Services Operating Budget	\$800.00

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Transportation Services staff received a request from Councillor Gloria Lindsay Luby, on behalf of an area resident, to investigate vehicle operating speeds on Valecrest Drive. In response, speed studies were conducted by Transportation Services staff on Valecrest Drive, north of Glendarling Road. The study results are applied to the 40 km/h Speed Limit Warrant.

A map of the area is Attachment 1.

COMMENTS

Valecrest Drive is a two lane local road with an 8.5 metre pavement width, located in the residential community to the east of Royal York Road, north of Edenbridge Drive. There are no sidewalks on either side of Valecrest Drive. The existing speed limit on Valecrest Drive is 50 km/h.

A speed and volume study was conducted on Valecrest Drive, north of Glendarling Road. The study results are shown in the following table:

Location: Valecrest Drive						
Count Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2010						
	Northbound			Southbound		
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	28	53		48	51	
p.m. Peak Hour	48	47		41	54	
24 Hour	400	50	39 – 48	425	53	41 – 50

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 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 one crash on this road where both vehicle operating speed and weather were identified as contributing factors. This crash involved a single motor vehicle and occurred about 43 metres north of Edenbridge Drive during inclement weather.

Under current City policy, forty km/h speed limits may be introduced on streets where the road width and either pedestrian or road and traffic environment criteria are satisfied.

Valecrest 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 Valecrest Drive, 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 these reduced speed limits 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
Attachment 3:	Photo
Attachment 4:	Photo

APPENDIX A

40 Km/h Speed Limit Warrant – Valecrest 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: 52 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"/>