



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Lexington Avenue – Speed Limit Amendment

Date:	July 13, 2010
To:	Etobicoke York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services - Etobicoke York District
Wards:	Ward 1 – Etobicoke North
Reference Number:	p:\2010\Cluster B\TRA\EtobicokeYork\eycc100117-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 Lexington Avenue, between Martin Grove Road and the north intersection of Silverstone Drive, 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 Lexington Avenue.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that Etobicoke York Community Council approve:

1. Enacting a 40 km/h speed limit on Lexington Avenue, between Martin Grove Road and the north intersection of Silverstone Drive.

Financial Impact

Type of Funding	Source of Funds	Amount
Available within current budget	Transportation Services Operating Budget	\$1,000.00

ISSUE BACKGROUND

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

A map of the area is Attachment 1.

COMMENTS

Lexington Avenue is a two-way local road with an 8.5 metre pavement width, located in the residential community north of Finch Avenue West, west of Martin Grove Road. There are sidewalks located on both sides of Lexington Avenue. The existing speed limit on Lexington Avenue is 50 km/h.

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

Location:	Lexington Avenue					
Count Date:	Tuesday, May 11, 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	12	48		21	45	
p.m. Peak Hour	21	52		19	46	
24 Hour	206	50	40 – 49	229	48	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 collision 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, 2009, report no crashes on Lexington Avenue 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. Lexington Avenue 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 road width less than 8.5 metres.

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 Lexington Avenue 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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Acting Director, Transportation Services, Etobicoke York District

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A:	Table 1
Attachment 1:	Map

APPENDIX A

40 Km/h Speed Limit Warrant – Lexington Avenue

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
		<i>PAVEMENT WIDTH: 8.5 metres</i> <i>85TH PERCENTILE SPEED: 49 km/h</i>
		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 type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" 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"/>