



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Traffic Calming – Withrow Avenue

Date:	December 11, 2009
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District
Wards:	Toronto-Danforth, Ward 30
Reference Number:	Ts09210te.top.doc

SUMMARY

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

Toronto and East York Community Council at its meeting on September 15, 2009 directed Transportation Services to report on installing traffic calming on Withrow Avenue, between Logan Avenue and Carlaw Avenue (Item TE27.168). Staff’s assessment indicates the criteria as set out in the Traffic Calming Policy have not been met; therefore, installation of speed humps on Withrow Avenue is not recommended at this time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Traffic calming not be installed on Withrow Avenue, between Logan Avenue and Carlaw Avenue.

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 Withrow Avenue, between Logan Avenue and Carlaw Avenue, would be beneficial, the following financial impact will result:

1. The estimated cost for installing two speed humps would be \$6,000.00. Funds in the amount of \$500,000.00 are contained in the Transportation Services 2010 Capital Budget for traffic calming initiatives. Installing speed humps on Withrow Avenue is subject to competing priorities and funding availability.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Toronto and East York Community Council at its meeting on September 15, 2009, referred the letter dated September 11, 2009, from Councillor Paula Fletcher respecting a request for traffic calming on Withrow Avenue, between Logan Avenue and Carlaw Avenue, to the Director of Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District, for consideration and report (Item TE27.168).

COMMENTS

Withrow Avenue, between Logan Avenue and Carlaw Avenue, is a local street operating one-way westbound with a posted speed limit of 40 km/h. Sidewalks exist on both sides of the roadway and the road grade is less than 5 percent. There is no TTC transit service on Withrow Avenue. Speed humps are installed on Withrow Avenue between Logan Avenue and Broadview Avenue, west of the subject section of Withrow Avenue.

Analysis

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

Withrow Avenue, between Logan Avenue and Carlaw Avenue, does not meet all the criteria for installing traffic-calming devices. Specifically, the operating speed of 39 km/h is below the minimum of 10 km/h over the existing posted speed limit required in the Traffic Calming Policy. Also, this section of Withrow Avenue carries less than the required 1,000 vehicles per day. Accordingly, installing speed humps on Withrow Avenue, between Logan Avenue and Carlaw Avenue, is not technically warranted.

Toronto Police Service collision records indicate no collisions were reported on this section of Withrow Avenue for the three-year period ending September 30, 2009.

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 Withrow Avenue, between Logan Avenue and Carlaw Avenue would be beneficial, it may approve the following:

1. Transportation Services consult with Councillor Fletcher to develop a speed hump plan.

2. Polling Registry Services poll eligible householders on Withrow Avenue, between Logan Avenue and Carlaw Avenue 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 Withrow Avenue, between Logan Avenue and Carlaw Avenue, 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 40 km/h to 30 km/h on Withrow Avenue, between Logan Avenue and Carlaw Avenue, 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 Withrow Avenue must be formally polled. A minimum response of 50 percent plus one ballot is required, of which at least 60 percent of the respondents must support installing speed humps in order to proceed with the installation. Subject to approval by Toronto and East York Community Council of the alternate recommendations outlined above, Transportation Services would request a poll of eligible residents on Withrow Avenue, between Logan Avenue and Carlaw Avenue. If the poll supports speed humps, Transportation Services would schedule installation based on relative need and competing priorities.

Relative Priority and Other Impacts

Relative need and 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. Withrow Avenue, between Logan Avenue and Carlaw Avenue, scored 9 ranking points out of a possible 100.

No alterations to parking regulations are required, nor would the number of parking spaces be affected by the installation of speed humps. Installation of speed humps will have minimal effect on winter services, street cleaning and garbage collection.

Speed humps will 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. Transportation Services will consult with emergency services if Toronto and East York Community Council determines that installing speed humps on the subject section of Withrow Avenue would be beneficial.

CONTACT

Brian Holditch, Transportation Technologist
Traffic Operations, Toronto and East York District
Phone (416) 338-5428; Fax: (416) 392-1920
e-mail: bholditc@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Peter Noehammer, P.Eng.
Director, Transportation Services

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Drawing No. 421F-9873, dated December 2009
- (2) Appendix A – Table 1: Traffic Calming Warrant Criteria

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