

Toronto Emergency Medical Services
Headquarters
4330 Dufferin St.
Toronto, Ontario M3H 5R9

Tel: 416-392-4930
Fax: 416-696-3603
skassam@toronto.ca
www.torontoems.ca

December 4, 2009
Mr. Randy Hillis
Engineering Technologist
17th Floor, Metro Hall
Toronto, Ontario
M5V 3C6

Re: Traffic Calming Measures – McMaster Avenue, between Rathnelly Avenue and Avenue Road – Evaluation for the installation of Speed Humps.

Dear: Mr. Hillis

I have received and reviewed the proposal for installation of Speed Humps for McMaster Avenue, between Rathnelly Avenue and Avenue Road. I have the following comments:

Toronto Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is supportive of community initiatives that improve the safety all citizens of, and visitors to, the City of Toronto. Traffic and pedestrian safety are key components of a healthy neighbourhood and we endeavour to support the wishes of the community to implement measures to improve upon these components. We look to the City's Traffic Calming Policy and its Warrant Criteria for guidance in our assessments and recommendations.

McMaster Avenue is an eastbound, one way street from Rathnelly Avenue to Avenue Road. Any vertical speed calming measures would impede patient comfort and EMS response times.

As documented in the in the Traffic Calming Policy, Toronto EMS objects to the usage of traffic calming measures, especially vertical obstacle measures such as speed humps, as there are negative effects on emergency call response times, travel times to hospital and on patient comfort during transport. This delay is cumulative with each obstacle and can directly impact upon patient outcome.

It is noted that this proposal does not meet the Warrant Criteria as set out in the Policy and as such, Toronto EMS is opposed to the installation of speed humps on McMaster Avenue, between Rathnelly Avenue and Avenue Road. It is important that the applicant(s) fully understand the potential for delay in emergency response and that alternatives to vertical measures be considered and evaluated.

Yours truly,

Shamez Kassam
Senior EMS Planner
Toronto EMS

Copy: Councillor Michael Walker, St Paul's – Ward 22, Suite B26, City Hall, Toronto, Ontario, M5H 2N2
Ron Hamilton, Manager - Traffic Operations, Toronto and East York District, West Area
Chief William Blair, Toronto Police Services, 40 College Street, Toronto, Ontario M5G 2J3
Attn: Staff Inspector Larry Sinclair, 53 Division

District Chief, Manick Noormahamud, Emergency Planning, Toronto Fire, 4330 Dufferin Street
Manick Noormahamud, District Chief, Emergency Planning, Toronto Fire, 4330 Dufferin Street

