



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

School Speed Zone - Avenue Road, in the vicinity of Brown Junior Public School

Date:	November 28, 2014
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District
Wards:	St. Paul's, Ward 22
Reference Number:	Ts2014179te.top.doc

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval for the designation of a School Speed Zone on Avenue Road in the vicinity of Brown Junior Public School, located at No. 454 Avenue Road. It is proposed that during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, the speed limit on this section of Avenue Road would be reduced from 50 km/h to 40 km/h and motorists would be alerted by flashing beacons on both sides of a sign placed upstream in both directions.

As the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates bus service on this section of Avenue Road, City Council approval of this report is required.

RECOMMENDATION

Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council designate a School Speed Zone on Avenue Road, between a point approximately 30 metres south of Balmoral Avenue and a point approximately 30 metres north of Lynwood Avenue.

Financial Impact

Funds to undertake the necessary signage adjustments and the installation of two flashing beacons in the estimated amount of \$25,000.00 are contained within Transportation Services 2015 Interim Operating Budget.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

A request was brought forward by the Brown School "School Zone Safety Working Group", and Ward 22 Councillor Josh Matlow, that Transportation Services investigate and report on the feasibility of lowering the existing speed limit on Avenue Road, from 50 km/h to 40 km/h, in the vicinity of the school, through the installation of a School Speed Zone.

COMMENTS

Avenue Road, in the vicinity of Brown Junior Public School, is a north-south, six-lane major arterial roadway that operates with a daily two-way traffic flow of approximately 40,000 vehicles, on a pavement width of 18.5 metres and with a maximum speed limit of 50 km/h. Brown Junior Public School is located on the west side of Avenue Road, between Balmoral Avenue and Lynwood Avenue. Traffic control signals in the vicinity of the school are located at the intersections of Avenue Road and Balmoral Avenue and at Avenue Road and St. Clair Avenue West. The TTC operates Nos. 5 and 142 bus routes on this portion of Avenue Road.

As noted above, the current speed limit on Avenue Road in the vicinity of Brown Junior Public School is 50 km/h. Recent radar speed studies conducted in the area of the school on a typical weekday during the school's commencement and dismissal periods, revealed an 85th percentile speed (the speed at which 85% percent of the traffic is travelling at or below) of 52 km/h.

A lower 40 km/h speed limit is not warranted on this section of Avenue Road given that the road width is greater than the maximum 10.5 metre requirement stipulated in the City-wide 40 km/h warrant, however staff recommends the designation of a School Speed Zone on Avenue Road between a point approximately 30 metres south of Balmoral Avenue and a point approximately 30 metres north of Lynwood Avenue. During the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, the speed limit on this section of Avenue Road would be reduced from 50 km/h to 40 km/h and motorists would be alerted by flashing beacons on both sides of a sign placed upstream in both directions.

It should be noted that two School Speed Zones are currently designated (and have been for a number of years) on two sections of four-lane "major arterial" roadways in the City of Toronto; Avenue Road, from a point 10 metres north of Willowbank Boulevard to a point 10 metres north of Briar Hill Avenue (north of Lawrence Avenue West), and on Keele Street, from a point approximately 245 metres south of Glenlake Avenue to a point approximately 122 metres north of Glenlake Avenue (north of Bloor Street West). Additionally, the implementation of a new School Speed Zone location has been approved, but is not yet in operation, on Bloor Street West, in the vicinity of St. Clement Catholic School.

Although the speed studies that have been undertaken over the years at the above-noted Avenue Road and Keele Street, Student Speed Zone locations revealed that compliance to the 40 km/h speed limit has been minimal, staff speculates that traffic on these sections of roadway have become accustomed to ignoring the "flashing" signs due to the age of the installations and the absence of regular speed enforcement. With the proposed installation of new "flashing" 40 km/h signs on Avenue Road, in the vicinity of Brown Junior Public School, we will continue to work closely with the Toronto Police Service to ensure that enhanced enforcement is carried out at this and the other noted Student Speed Zone locations. Further, just the presence of the

flashing 40km/h Student Speed Zone signs at this location, will enhance motorists awareness to the fact that they are operating their vehicles in the presence of a school.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Kyp Perikleous,
Director, Toronto and East York District

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A – Drawing No. 421G- 1589, dated November 2014

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