

Speed Limit Reduction - Pleasant Avenue

Date: October 11, 2017

To: North York Community Council

From: Director, Transportation Services, North York District

Wards: Ward 23 – Willowdale

SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter for which Community Council has delegated authority to make a final decision, provided that it is not amended so that it varies with City policy or by-laws.

Transportation Services is requesting approval to extend the limits of the existing 40 km/h posted speed limit on Pleasant Avenue, currently in effect within 150 metres of Pleasant Public School. The proposed changes will extend the 40 km/h posted speed limit further west to Chelmsford Avenue and further east to Crossen Drive. These adjacent sections of Pleasant Avenue currently have a 50 km/h regulatory speed limit.

The extension of the 40 km/h posted speed limit on Pleasant Avenue will encourage motorists to slow down in the vicinity of students walking to/from Pleasant Public School and will result in a consistent speed limit on Pleasant Avenue, between Chelmsford Avenue and Crossen Drive.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Acting Director, Transportation Services, North York District recommends that North York Community Council:

1. Rescind the existing 40 km/h speed limit on Pleasant Avenue, between a point 150 metres west of Peckham Avenue and a point 150 metres east of Cactus Avenue.
2. Enact a 40 km/h speed limit on Pleasant Avenue, between Chelmsford Avenue and Crossen Drive.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

All costs associated with extending the 40 km/h posted speed limit on Pleasant Avenue are included within the Transportation Services 2017 Operating Budget.

DECISION HISTORY

This report addresses a new initiative.

COMMENTS

Transportation Services was requested by Councillor John Filion, on behalf of local residents, to review the speed limits on Pleasant Avenue, between Yonge Street and Cactus Avenue. This was requested due to concerns with excessive vehicle speeds.

Pleasant Avenue is an 8.5 metre wide, two-way local street that runs east from Chelmsford Avenue to Yonge Street. It has a daily two-way traffic volume of approximately 1,200 vehicles. There is a municipal sidewalk on the north side of the street. Heavy vehicles are prohibited at all times on Pleasant Avenue and there is no TTC service.

Pleasant Public School is located on the north side of the street, between Peckham Avenue and Cactus Avenue. Goulding Park is located on the south side of the street, approximately 800 metres east of the school, between Fargo Avenue and Lariviere Road. The remainder of the street is comprised of single family homes.

There is a 40 km/h posted speed limit in effect on the section of Pleasant Avenue within 150 metres of Pleasant Public School. The remainder of the street has a 50 km/h regulatory speed limit.

The only historic speed data on Pleasant Avenue was undertaken on the section between Peckham Avenue and Cactus Avenue on October 31, 2012. Accordingly, to quantify the concerns of the residents and to identify the existing traffic conditions, a number of updated 24-hour speed studies were conducted on the remaining sections of Pleasant Avenue on June 7, 2017.

The following table summarizes the results of those studies on Pleasant Avenue, including the section, the direction of travel, the speed limit, the average and operating speeds (the speed at which 85 percent of the motorists are travelling at or below) and the traffic volumes in the a.m. and p.m. peak hours, as well as the daily total.

Table 1: 24-hour Vehicle Speed and Volume Studies

Section of Pleasant Avenue	Direction	Speed Limit	Vehicle Speeds		Traffic Volume		
			Average	Operating	AM	PM	24 Hour
Peckham Avenue and Cactus Avenue	Eastbound	40 km/h	33	40	47	37	296
	Westbound		32	40	82	58	443
Cactus Avenue and Shetland Street	Eastbound		42	49	48	48	401
	Westbound		45	53	34	53	471
Shetland Street and Hilda Avenue	Eastbound	50 km/h	43	50	56	56	456
	Westbound		44	53	35	60	530
Hilda Avenue and Fargo Avenue	Eastbound		45	54	38	61	541
	Westbound		40	48	54	54	689
Fargo Avenue and Yonge Street	Eastbound		42	50	30	64	439
	Westbound		43	52	48	49	630

A review of Toronto Police Service collision records revealed that during the three year period ending May 31, 2017 there were three reported collisions on Pleasant Avenue, between Chelmsford Avenue and Yonge Street. Two collisions involved a parked vehicle and one collision involved a pedestrian. In the latter collision, a school-age pedestrian ran on the road at Goulding Park and was struck by a westbound vehicle. The pedestrian sustained minimal injuries and the motorist was not charged.

City Council, at its meeting on July 30, 2002, approved a city wide policy regarding the implementation requirements for a 40 km/h speed limit. The 40 km/h speed limit policy considers various roadway characteristics including the presence of schools, the absence of municipal sidewalks and where the safe speed on curves is less than 50 km/h.

Transportation Services has evaluated Pleasant Avenue against the warrant criteria and found that a 40 km/h speed limit is not technically justified on the adjacent sections on Pleasant Avenue. Notwithstanding, observations revealed that student pedestrian activity on Pleasant Avenue extends beyond 150 metres of Pleasant Public School. Considering this, it is recommended that the existing limits of the 40 km/h posted speed limit on Pleasant Avenue be extended to the adjacent intersections of Chelmsford Avenue to the west and Crossen Drive to the east.

The extension of the 40 km/h posted speed limit on Pleasant Avenue will encourage motorists to slow down in the vicinity of students walking to/from Pleasant Public School and result in a consistent speed limit on Pleasant Avenue between Chelmsford Avenue and Crossen Drive. The change from the 50 km/h regulatory speed limit to the 40 km/h posted speed limit on Pleasant Avenue will begin at an intersecting roadway, which will be a more expected transition for motorists, rather than at a mid-block location.

The Ward Councillor is aware of the recommendation in this staff report.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Peter K. Hillier
Acting Director

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Map – Pleasant Avenue - Proposed 40km/h Speed Limit