



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Westona Street and Braecrest Avenue – Traffic Calming

Date:	February 17, 2009
To:	Etobicoke York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services - Etobicoke York District
Wards:	Ward 2 – Etobicoke-North
Reference Number:	p:\2009\Cluster B\TRA\EtobicokeYork\eycc090047-to

SUMMARY

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

The purpose of this report is to respond to the direction of Etobicoke York Community Council, at the meeting of September 14, 2004, “that staff re-examine area traffic patterns, volumes and speeds following build-out and occupancy of the seniors’ retirement and housing facility at 2245 Lawrence Avenue West, and that at that time consider alternative traffic management measures including permanent traffic calming devices”.

A temporary directional diverter was installed at the intersection of Westona Street at Braecrest Drive/driveway to the Villages of Humber Heights in 2005 prior to occupancy of the seniors’ retirement facility. As the Villages of Humber Heights facility is now fully occupied, staff conducted follow-up studies with the directional diverter at the intersection.

Now that studies are complete, and as a result of the previous direction of Community Council, and discussions with the area Councillor and Oakwood Retirement Communities Inc., this report seeks authority to undertake another poll to determine if the residents of both 2245 Lawrence Avenue and the area homes, support retaining the directional diverter at this intersection.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that Etobicoke York Community Council approve:

1. Authorizing the City Clerk to conduct a poll of eligible householders in the area bounded by Royal York Road, Lawrence Avenue, Scarlett Road, and Yorkleigh Avenue. Specifically on Yorkleigh Avenue, between Scarlett Road and the west limit of the road (near Roxaline Street), Braecrest Avenue between Westona Street and Royal York Road, Roxaline Street between Lawrence Avenue and Yorkleigh Avenue, Westona Street between Lawrence Avenue and Yorkleigh Avenue, Mountbatten Road between Scarlett Road and the west limit of the road, Freemont Avenue between Yorkleigh Avenue and Mountbatten Road, Lawrence Avenue between Royal York Road and Scarlett Road (south side), Scarlett Road between Lawrence Avenue and Yorkleigh Avenue (west side), and Royal York Road between Lawrence Avenue and Yorkleigh Avenue (east side) to determine residents support for the directional diverter, in accordance with the City of Toronto Traffic Calming Policy.
2. That if the results of the poll indicate to remove the directional diverter;
 - a. The City Solicitor rescind the by-law which previously altered sections of the roadway at Westona Street and Braecrest Avenue, for traffic calming purposes, generally as shown on the attached Drawing No. EY09-52, dated February 2009 and circulated to residents through the polling process.

Type of Funding	Source of Funds	Amount
Available within current budget	Transportation Services Capital Budget	\$12,000.00

ISSUE BACKGROUND

As a result of the previous direction of Community Council, a temporary “Jersey” barrier was installed at the intersection of Braecrest Avenue and Westona Street. In addition, Community Council requested that staff re-examine area traffic patterns, volumes and speeds following build-out and occupancy of the seniors’ retirement and housing facility at 2245 Lawrence Avenue West, and that at that time consider alternative traffic management measures including permanent traffic calming devices. Transportation Services staff has completed our investigation and are reporting back on this issue. A map of the area is shown on Attachment 1.

DECISION HISTORY

Etobicoke York Community Council on September 14, 2004 considered a report (August 19, 2004) from the Director, Transportation Services, responding to a request from the Etobicoke York Community Council on July 6, 2004, to report back on the issue of installing a directional diverter or other traffic calming device at the intersection of Braecrest Avenue and Westona Street. As part of the traffic calming process, a by-law was approved to alter the intersection of Braecrest Avenue and Westona Street for traffic calming purposes.

COMMENTS

Westona Street and Braecrest Avenue are classified as local roads located south of Lawrence Avenue West between Royal York Road and Scarlett Road; operating as a two-way road built with open ditch and no curbs on the majority of the road. The current legal speed limit on Westona Street is 40 km/h and 50 km/h on Braecrest Avenue. A pedestrian crossover (PXO) exists at the intersection of Lawrence Avenue West and Westona Street. Sidewalk exists along the west side of Westona Street between Lawrence Avenue West and the new retirement residence at 2245 Lawrence Avenue West.

A temporary directional diverter (Jersey barrier) was installed across the intersection of Braecrest Avenue and Westona Street in February 2005 to prevent through traffic on Westona Street and only allow residents/staff of Oakwood Retirement Communities to exit and enter via Lawrence Avenue West. Although the minimum requirements for installation of this traffic calming device were not achieved, staff was directed by Etobicoke York Community Council in July 2004 to poll area residents, prior to construction of the seniors' retirement facility on whether they wanted this directional diverter installed at Westona Street and Braecrest Avenue.

The City's Traffic Calming Policy stipulates that a minimum of 50% plus one of affected households respond, and that 60% of valid responses support the proposal in order to implement the plan. To satisfy the requirements, a total of 109 ballots were distributed. A total of 66 (61%) ballots were returned to this Division. Of the responses received, 49 (75%) supported and 16 (25%) opposed the installation of traffic calming measures. There was one spoiled ballot. As a result of this positive poll, the temporary directional diverter was installed across the intersection.

Following approval of the installation of the directional diverter, legal counsel for Oakwood Retirement Communities Inc. objected to the installation of the diverter and they requested that the Minister of the Environment elevate (bump up) the proposed Schedule B project to a Schedule C project. As a result of this request, Transportation Services staff met with representatives of Oakwood Retirement Communities Inc. in an attempt to resolve their concerns. As a result of these meetings, an agreement was reached to install the temporary directional diverter, however, we indicated that we would reassess this location regarding the need for a permanent diverter and repoll the area residents. This poll would be conducted following occupancy of 2245 Lawrence Avenue.

Transportation Services staff collected traffic volume and speed data using automatic traffic recorders installed on Westona Street, Braecrest Avenue and Yorkleigh Avenue. This data is compared with previous counts conducted prior to the installation of the directional diverter in Appendix A.

Study results reveal a slight increase in the traffic volume on sections of Braecrest Avenue between Roxaline Street and Royal York Road, with a corresponding decrease in traffic on Westona Drive, south of the diverter as well as on Braecrest Avenue between Westona Street and Roxaline Street. Traffic volume on Yorkleigh Avenue remained relatively the same.

Based on the direction of Etobicoke York Community Council, and our discussions with Oakwood Retirement Communities representatives, we have re-examined the area traffic patterns. As a result, we are now considering whether the temporary diverter is to be removed entirely, or if it becomes a permanent installation involving the installation of curbs and removal of the jersey barriers.

As the temporary diverter was installed via the traffic calming process, involving a report to Etobicoke York Community Council and the authorization of a poll, we are recommending that the decision on the installation of a permanent directional diverter follows the same process. Specifically, we are recommending that the Clerks Department send ballots to area residents asking whether they support retaining or removing the directional diverter at this intersection. If the residents support retaining the directional diverter, it would be made more permanent and aesthetically pleasing. If the residents oppose, it will be removed.

Considering both the speed and volume information collected, and the physical road conditions (i.e. no sidewalks), other forms of traffic calming devices are not warranted on the streets at this time.

We have confirmed with the Clerks Department that as part of the polling process, each owner/tenant/boarder of the area homes on the streets listed in the recommendations, as well as each owner/tenant/boarder the Villages of Humber Heights facility (2245 Lawrence Avenue) will receive a ballot.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

John Niedra, P.Eng.

Director, Transportation Services - Etobicoke York District

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Traffic Volume Table

Attachment 1: Map

Appendix A – Table 1

Traffic Volume Table

Braecrest Avenue and Westona Street

Count Location	24-hour Volume (Before Diverter)		24-hour Volume and 85 th percentile speed (After Diverter)	
	Volume	Speed	Volume	Speed
Braecrest Ave., west of Roxaline St.	976	n/a	1,035 – 1,111	50 km/h
Braecrest Ave., east of Roxaline St.	192	43 km/h	177	44 km/h
Westona St., north of Braecrest Av.	na	na	724	30 km/h
Westona St., south of Braecrest Av.	289	47 km/h	112	42 km/h
Yorkeigh Ave., west of Westona St.	n/a	n/a	1,007	45 km/h
Yorkeigh Ave., east of Westona St.	1,065	54 km/h	1,016	51 km/h