



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

All-Way Stop Controls Not Recommended – Evenwood Avenue and Closson Drive/Newmain Court

Date:	April 6, 2010
To:	Scarborough Community Council
From:	Acting Director, Transportation Services, Scarborough District
Wards:	Ward 44 – Scarborough East
Reference Number:	P:\2010\Cluster B\TRA\Scarborough\sc1037 D09-3460178 Evanwood Avenue awsc

SUMMARY

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

The purpose of this report is to advise on the feasibility of installing All-Way Stop Controls at this intersection in Ward 44.

It is recommended that an All-Way Stop Control not be installed at Evenwood Avenue and Closson Drive/Newmain Court since the subject intersection failed to meet the required All-Way Stop Control warrants adopted by Council for use in the City of Toronto.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services, Scarborough District, recommends that Scarborough Community Council:

1. Not approve the installation of all-way stop controls at the intersection of Evenwood Avenue and Closson Drive/Newmain Court.
2. Not pass or amend the appropriate by-law(s) accordingly.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact associated with this report; however, the financial cost of installing a new All-Way Stop Control is approximately \$600.00. Funding for these compulsory signs is available in the Transportation Services 2010 Operating Budget, within Cost Centre TPO397.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Further to a request from a local Councillor, Transportation Services staff reviewed the feasibility of an all-way stop control at the intersection of Evenwood Avenue and Closson Drive/Newmain Court.

COMMENTS

Several characteristics describing the subject intersection of Evenwood Avenue and Closson Drive/Newmain Court include:

- The noted t-type/squeued intersection is presently controlled by stop signs on the minor approaches for westbound traffic on Evenwood Avenue and Closson Drive and for southbound traffic Newmain Court at Evenwood Avenue.
- The land use on both Evenwood Avenue and Closson Drive/Newmains Court is single family dwellings.
- Both Evenwood Avenue and Closson Drive/Newmains Court are two-lane local roads with a unposted speed limit of 50 kilometres per hour and a traffic volume of less than 2,500 vehicles per day (vpd).
- Evenwood Avenue east of Closson Drive/Newmains Court has a pavement width of approximately 8.0 to 8.5 metres.
- Evenwood Avenue west of Closson Drive/Newmains Court has a pavement width of less than 6.0 metres.

The following comments outline the main reasons why an all-way stop control should only be installed when it is technically justified:

- Most motorists are reasonable and prudent with no intention of maliciously violating traffic regulations. However, when unreasonable restrictions are imposed, it may result in flagrant violations. In such cases, stop signs can, in fact give pedestrians a false sense of security and can encourage attitudes of contempt in a motorist. These two attitudes can and often do conflict, ultimately which undermines safety for both pedestrians and motorists.
- Unwarranted stop signs often result in an increase in speeds by motorists to make up time for what they perceive as unnecessary delays.
- In view of the City's obligation to provide services in an environmentally conscious manner, the installation of unwarranted stop controls also contributes to unnecessary fuel consumption and higher levels of noise and air pollution. These pollutants most specifically impact those residents in the immediate vicinity of the intersection.

A traffic study conducted at the intersection of Evenwood Avenue and Closson Drive/Newmain Court during the morning and afternoon peak hours of a typical weekday (Wednesday, January 6, 2010) produced the following results:

All-Way Stop Control Warrant (Two-Hour Study Period Average)	A Total Approach Vehicle Volume	B Vehicle/Pedestrian Volume Crossing Major Road	C Unit Volume Split* Major/Minor Roads
Evanwood Avenue and Closson Drive/Newmain	20	10	50/50
Warrant Requirements For Study Period Average For Local Roads	≥ 250	≥ 100	≥ 30/70 or ≤ 70/30

* “Unit Volume Split”: Major Road Volume – Vehicles only.
Minor Road Volume – Vehicles plus pedestrians crossing the major road.

For an All-Way Stop Control to be numerically justified, the traffic volume requirements for the “Study Period Average” must be completely satisfied in Categories A and C, or Categories B and C.

As outlined in the above table, the traffic volumes do not meet the requirements to install an all-way stop control at the subject intersection at this time.

In recent years (from January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2009) there has been one police recorded collision at this intersection. In this instance, which occurred in January of 2008, a novice driver reportedly swerved to avoid an animal and this manoeuvre resulted in a property damage collision. Charges were ultimately laid in this occurrence. This record shows there is no indicative collision problem at this intersection at this time.

Accordingly, based on the above-mentioned traffic study results, this intersection is operating in a safe and efficient manner and as such, an All-Way Stop Control is not recommended.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

1. Location Plan (All-Way Stop Control Study – Evenwood Avenue and Closson Drive/Newmain Court)