



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

Traffic Calming – Hastings Avenue

Date:	December 8, 2010
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District
Wards:	Toronto-Danforth, Ward 30
Reference Number:	Ts2011006te.top.doc

SUMMARY

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

Transportation Services staff have reviewed the need for traffic calming on Hastings Avenue, between Queen Street East and Dundas Street East to address residents' concerns with the speed of traffic. Our assessment indicates the criteria as set out in the traffic calming policy has not been satisfied; therefore, speed humps should not be installed on Hastings Avenue at this time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends to Toronto and East York Community Council that:

1. Traffic calming not be installed on Hastings Avenue, between Queen Street East and Dundas Street East.

Financial Impact

The adoption of the above-noted recommendation will not result in any financial impact.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Transportation Services staff reviewed the need for traffic calming on Hastings Avenue, between Queen Street East and Dundas Street East, in response to a residents' petition for speed humps. Councillor Paula Fletcher has requested staff to submit a report on the results of this review to Toronto and East York Community Council.

COMMENTS

Hastings Avenue, between Queen Street East and Dundas Street East, is a local road operating one-way southbound with a maximum speed limit of 40 km/h and a pavement width of 7.3 metres. Sidewalks exist on both sides of the roadway. The TTC does not operate a service on Hastings Avenue.

Analysis

Vehicle speeds and traffic volumes are the prime criteria for installing traffic calming devices. Other factors, including road width, pedestrian facilities and gradient are also considered in the assessment.

Hastings Avenue, between Queen Street East and Dundas Street East, does not meet all the criteria for installing traffic-calming devices. Specifically, the operating speed of 42 km/h is below the minimum of 10 km/h over the existing posted speed limit required in the Traffic Calming Policy. Also, this section of Hastings Avenue carries less than the required 1,000 vehicles per day. Accordingly, installing speed humps on Hastings Avenue, between Queen Street East and Dundas Street East, is not technically warranted.

Toronto Police Service collision records indicate two reported collisions on this section of Hastings Avenue for the three-year period ending September 30, 2009. Speeding was not indicated as a factor in either of these collisions.

Appendix A outlines the assessment of the technical criteria in more detail.

Alternate Recommendations

If, despite the findings above, Toronto and East York Community Council determines that installing speed humps on Hastings Avenue, between Queen Street East and Dundas Street East would be beneficial, it may approve the following:

1. Polling Registry Services poll eligible householders on Hastings Avenue, between Queen Street East and Dundas Street East to determine whether residents support the installation, in accordance with the City of Toronto Traffic Calming Policy.
2. Subject to favourable results of the poll:
 - a. the City Solicitor prepare a by-law to alter sections of the roadway on Hastings Avenue, between Queen Street East and Dundas Street East, for traffic calming purposes, generally as shown on the copy of Drawing No. 421G-0170, dated November 2010 attached to the report dated December 4, 2010, entitled " Traffic Calming Hastings Avenue" from the Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District; and
 - b. Transportation Services take the necessary actions to reduce the speed limit from 40 km/h to 30 km/h on Hastings Avenue, between Queen Street East and Dundas Street East, when the speed humps are installed.

Conduct Poll

The City of Toronto Traffic Calming Policy stipulates residents who would be directly affected by installing speed humps on Hastings Avenue be formally polled. A minimum response of 50 percent plus one ballot is required, of which at least 60 percent of the respondents must support installing speed humps in order to proceed with the installation. Subject to approval by Toronto and East York Community Council of the alternate recommendations outlined above, Transportation Services would request a poll of eligible residents on Hastings Avenue, between Queen Street East and Dundas Street East. If the poll supports speed humps, Transportation Services would schedule installation based on relative need, competing priorities and funding availability.

Relative Priority and Other Impacts

Relative need and priority of speed hump installation is based on a technical assessment of traffic volume, vehicle speed percentages, speed-related collisions, and the presence of schools, parks, seniors' residences or bicycle routes. Hastings Avenue, between Queen Street East and Dundas Street East, scored 13 ranking points out of a possible 100.

No alterations to parking regulations are required, nor would the number of parking spaces be affected by the installation of speed humps. Installation of speed humps will have minimal effect on winter services, street cleaning and garbage collection.

Speed humps will result in slower operating speeds for all vehicles, including emergency service vehicles, and could result in increased response times in the event of an emergency.

Emergency Services Comments

Consultation with emergency services (Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services) is required in order to ensure that the design and layout of a traffic calming proposal does not unduly affect their operations. Manick Noormahamud, District Chief, Emergency Planning Research and Development, Toronto Fire Services, provided his comments in the attached letter dated October 26, 2010 (Appendix B). Comments have not yet been received from Toronto Police or EMS.

Financial and Implementation Considerations

If Toronto and East York Community Council decides speed humps on Hastings Avenue, between Queen Street East and Dundas Street East, would be beneficial, the estimated cost for installing four speed humps would be \$12,000.00. Funds for traffic calming initiatives have been requested in the Transportation Services 2011 Capital Budget submission. Installing speed humps on Hastings Avenue would be subject to necessary funds being approved by Council in the Capital Budget and competing priorities.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Andrew Koropeski, P.Eng.
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Toronto and East York District

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Drawing No. 421G-0170, November 2010
- (2) Appendix A – Table 1: Traffic Calming Warrant Criteria
- (3) Appendix B – October 26, 2010 letter from Toronto Fire Services

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