

Results of Speed Hump Poll – Benson Avenue

Date:	December 7, 2010
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District
Wards:	St. Paul's, Ward 21
Reference Number:	Ts2011004te.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.

At the request of Councillor Joe Mihevc, staff is reporting and providing Toronto and East York Community Council with the results of the traffic calming poll undertaken on Benson Avenue, between Winona Drive and Greensides Avenue. The poll provided a response rate of less than the 50 percent plus one ballot required by the traffic calming policy needed to confirm that there is a favourable consensus in the community to install traffic calming measures. Accordingly, continuing the process to install speed humps on Benson Avenue, between Winona Drive and Greensides Avenue is not recommended.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Not approve the installation of traffic calming (speed humps) on Benson Avenue, between Winona Drive and Greensides Avenue.

Financial Impact

Adopting the above-noted recommendation carries no financial impact.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of August 17, 2010, Toronto and East York Community Council recommended the installation of speed humps on Benson Avenue, between Winona Drive and Greensides Avenue, subject to a favourable poll of residents (Item TE36.97).

COMMENTS

Councillor Mihvec has requested Transportation Services to report on the results of the poll undertaken in September/October 2010 regarding the installation of speed humps on Benson Avenue, between Winona Drive and Greensides Avenue.

The traffic calming policy, adopted by City Council requires among other matters that staff undertake a poll of eligible voters on streets being considered for traffic calming and consult with Emergency Services.

With respect to the poll:

- a return rate of 50 percent plus one ballot; and
- a support rate of at least 60 percent of the valid responses is required.

The poll results for the subject section of Benson Avenue are as follows:

Poll results

No. of ballots mailed out	53	100%
No. of responses	23	43%
No. of ballots in favour	20	87%
No. of ballots opposed	3	13%

As shown in the above table, the poll results did not obtain the minimum 50 percent plus one ballot response rate. When the polling requirements have not been met the process to install the proposed traffic calming measures should not go forward. Also, a two-year moratorium is imposed on further polling.

Comments from Emergency Services

Staff has received comments regarding installation of speed humps on Benson Avenue, from Toronto Emergency Medical Services, letter dated July 22, 2010 (Appendix A) and from Toronto Fire Service, letter dated July 28, 2010 (Appendix B). Both services are opposed to the installation of speed humps on this section of Benson Avenue.

Notification of residents

Under the current polling policy, residents of Benson Avenue have been notified in writing by the City Clerk that the speed hump poll on this street did not satisfy the required criteria and that any follow-up poll cannot be conducted for a period of two years. Residents have not specifically been told speed humps will not be installed and advised that Toronto and East York Community has the final decision on the matter. However, they might interpret the failure of the poll as the final decision on this matter.

Alternate Recommendations

If Toronto and East York Community Council wishes to proceed with installing speed humps on Benson Avenue, between Winona Drive and Greensides Avenue the following alternate recommendations should be adopted:

1. The City Solicitor prepare a by-law to alter the roadway to install two speed humps on Benson Avenue, between Winona Drive and Greensides Avenue, generally as shown on Drawing No. 421G-0091, dated July 2010.
2. Transportation Services reduce the speed limit on Benson Avenue, between Winona Drive and Greensides Avenue, from 40 km/h to 30 km/h, upon installation of the speed humps.

The estimated cost for installing two speed humps on Benson Avenue is \$6,000. Funds for traffic calming initiatives have been requested in Transportation Services 2011 Capital Budget submission. Installing speed humps on Wychwood 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

ATTACHMENTS

Drawing No. 421G-0091, dated July 2010
Appendix A - Letter from Toronto Emergency Medical Services, dated July 22, 2010
Appendix B - Letter from Toronto Fire Services, dated July 28, 2010

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