Traffic Calming – Plains Road

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<th>Date:</th>
<th>May 4, 2011</th>
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<td>To:</td>
<td>Toronto and East York Community Council</td>
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<td>From:</td>
<td>Acting Director, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District</td>
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<td>Wards:</td>
<td>Toronto - Danforth, Ward 29</td>
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<td>Reference Number:</td>
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**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 Plains Road, between Donlands Avenue and Coxwell Avenue 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 this section of Plains Road at this time.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. Traffic calming not be installed on Plains Road, between Donlands Avenue and Coxwell Avenue.

**Financial Impact**

The adoption of the above-noted recommendation will not result in any financial impact. If, however, Toronto and East York Community Council decides speed humps on Plains Road, between Donlands Avenue and Coxwell Avenue would be beneficial, the following financial impact will result:

1. The estimated cost for installing 11 speed humps would be $33,000.00. Funds in the amount of $513,000.00 have been allocated in the Transportation Services 2011 Capital Budget request for traffic calming initiatives. Installing speed humps on
this section of Plains Road would be subject to competing priorities and funding availability.

**ISSUE BACKGROUND**
Transportation Services staff reviewed the need for traffic calming on Plains Road, between Donlands Avenue and Coxwell Avenue, in response to residents’ concerns regarding speeding. Councillor Mary Fragedakis has requested staff to submit a report on the results of this review to Toronto and East York Community Council.

**COMMENTS**
Plains Road, between Donlands Avenue and Coxwell Avenue, is a local street operating two-way (eastbound and westbound) with a maximum speed limit of 40 km/h and a pavement width of 9.0 metres. A continuous sidewalk exists on both sides of the roadway. TTC does not operate a service on this section of Plains Road.

**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.

Plains Road, between Donlands Avenue and Coxwell Avenue does not meet all the criteria for installing traffic-calming devices. Specifically, the operating speed of 43 km/h is below the minimum of 10 km/h over the existing posted speed limit required in the Traffic Calming Policy. Accordingly, installing speed humps on Plains Road, between Donlands Avenue and Coxwell Avenue is not technically warranted.

Toronto Police Service records indicate no collisions were reported in a three-year period ending December 15, 2010 where speeding was indicated as a factor.

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 Plains Road, between Donlands Avenue and Coxwell Avenue would be beneficial, it may approve the following:

1. Polling Registry Services poll eligible householders on Plains Road, between Donlands Avenue and Coxwell Avenue 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 Plains Road, between Donlands Avenue and Coxwell Avenue, for traffic calming purposes, generally as shown on the copy of Drawing No. 421G-0347, dated May 2011, attached to the report dated May 4, 2011, entitled "Traffic Calming – Plains Road"
Calming - Plains Road " from the Acting Director, Transportation Services Toronto 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 Plains Road, between Donlands Avenue and Coxwell Avenue, 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 Plains Road, between Donlands Avenue and Coxwell Avenue must 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 Plains Road, between Donlands Avenue and Coxwell Avenue. If the poll supports speed humps, Transportation Services would schedule installation based on relative need and competing priorities.

**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. Plains Road, between Donlands Avenue and Coxwell Avenue scored 32 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.

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SIGNATURE

Angie Antoniou
Acting Director, Transportation Services
Toronto and East York District

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS
(1) Drawing No. 421G-0347, May 2011
(2) Appendix A - Table 1: Traffic Calming Warrant Criteria