Traffic Calming – Coulson Avenue

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<th>Date:</th>
<th>August 14, 2012</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>St. Paul's, Ward 22</td>
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**SUMMARY**

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

Transportation Services staff have reviewed the need for traffic calming on Coulson Avenue, between Spadina Road and Russell Hill Road, 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 Coulson Avenue at this time.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. Traffic calming not be installed on Coulson Avenue, between Spadina Road and Russell Hill Road.

**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 that speed humps on Coulson Avenue, between Spadina Road and Russell Hill Road, would be beneficial, the following financial impact will result:

1. The estimated cost for installing 4 speed humps would be $12,000.00. Funds in the Transportation Services 2012 Capital Budget for traffic calming initiatives are fully allocated and installation of speed humps on Coulson Avenue would be subject to competing priorities and funding availability in 2013.
ISSUE BACKGROUND
Transportation Services staff reviewed the need for traffic calming on Coulson Avenue, between Spadina Road and Russell Hill Road, in response to a residents’ petition for speed humps. Councillor Josh Matlow has requested staff to submit a report on the results of this review to Toronto and East York Community Council.

COMMENTS
Coulson Avenue, between Spadina Road and Russell Hill Road, is an east/west local residential roadway that operates two-way on a pavement width of 7.3 metres and with a maximum posted speed limit of 40 km/h. A sidewalk is provided on the south side of Coulson Avenue. The TTC does not operate a service on Coulson 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.

Coulson Avenue, between Spadina Road and Russell Hill Road, does not meet all the criteria for installing traffic calming devices. Specifically, the operating speed of 45 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 Coulson Avenue, between Spadina Road and Russell Hill Road, is not technically warranted.

A review of the Toronto Police Service collision records for a three-year period ending February 29, 2012 did not reveal any reported collisions involving a speeding vehicle on the subject section of Coulson Avenue.

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 Coulson Avenue, between Spadina Road and Russell Hill Road, would be beneficial, it may approve the following:

1. Polling Registry Services poll eligible householders on Coulson Avenue, between Spadina Road and Russell Hill Road, 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 Coulson Avenue, between Spadina Road and Russell Hill Road, for traffic calming purposes, generally as shown on the copy of Drawing No. 421G-0779, dated July 2012 attached to the report dated August 14, 2012, entitled "Traffic
From the Acting 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 Coulson Avenue, between Spadina Road and Russell Hill Road, when the speed humps are installed.

**Conduct Poll**

The City of Toronto traffic calming policy stipulates that residents who would be directly affected by installing speed humps on Coulson 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. Should Toronto and East York Community Council approve the alternate recommendations outlined above, Transportation Services would request a poll of eligible residents on Coulson Avenue, between Spadina Road and Russell Hill Road. 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. Coulson Avenue, between Spadina Road and Russell Hill Road, scored 20 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 to ensure that the design and layout of a traffic calming proposal does not unduly affect their operations. Emergency Medical Services provided their comments in the attached letter dated June 18, 2012 (Appendix B) and they are opposed to the installation of speed humps on Coulson Avenue. Comments have not yet been received from Fire Services and the Toronto Police Service.

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SIGNATURE

Jacqueline White, P.Eng.
Acting Director, Transportation Services
Toronto and East York District

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS
(1) Drawing No. 421G-0779, July 2012
(2) Appendix A - Table 1: Traffic Calming Warrant Criteria
(3) Appendix B - June 18, 2012 letter from Toronto EMS