Traffic Calming – Lonsmount Drive

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<th>Date:</th>
<th>August 15, 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 21</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 Lonsmount Drive, between Bathurst Street and Tichester 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 Lonsmount Drive at this time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Traffic calming not be installed on Lonsmount Drive, between Bathurst Street and Tichester 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 speed humps on Lonsmount Drive, between Bathurst Street and Tichester Road, would be beneficial, the following financial impact will result:

1. The estimated cost for installing four speed humps would be $12,000.00. Funds in the amount of $200,000.00 that were allocated in the Transportation Services 2012 Capital Budget have been fully utilized. As a result, speed humps on Lonsmount
Drive would be installed in 2013 at the earliest as their installation would be subject to competing priorities and funding availability.

ISSUE BACKGROUND
Transportation Services staff reviewed the need for traffic calming on Lonsmount Drive, between Bathurst Street and Tichester Road, in response to a residents’ petition for speed humps. Councillor Joe Mihevc has requested staff submit a report on the results of this review to Toronto and East York Community Council.

This section of Lonsmount Drive was previously reviewed in 2002. At that time, the results of a speed and volume survey also revealed that speed humps were not technically warranted. No further action was taken at that time.

COMMENTS
Lonsmount Drive, between Bathurst Street and Tichester Road, is a local road operating two-way with a maximum speed limit of 40 km/h and a pavement width of approximately 7.3 metres. A sidewalk is present on the entire east side of Lonsmount Drive, and on some sections of the west side. The TTC does not operate a service on this section of Lonsmount Drive.

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.

Lonsmount Drive, between Bathurst Street and Tichester Road, does not meet all the criteria for installing traffic-calming devices. Specifically, the operating speed of 34-36 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 Lonsmount Drive, between Bathurst Street and Tichester Road, is not technically warranted, nor recommended. Also, the block lengths between regulatory controls on Lonsmount Drive, from Tichester Road to Lonsdale Road, are less than the minimum required length of 120 metres.

The results of the speed and volume survey noted above obtained lower operating speeds when compared with the results of the study undertaken in 2002. At that time the operating speed was 40 km/h. The operating speeds obtained on Lonsmount Drive were below the posted legal speed limit of 40 km/h. These speeds are typical of those achieved on streets where traffic calming (speed humps) are installed. Accordingly, the introduction of speed humps on Lonsmount Drive, would have a negligible effect on lowering the existing operating speeds.

A review of the Toronto Police Service collision records for the three-year period ending May 31, 2012, did not reveal any reported collisions on the subject section of Lonsmount Drive.
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 Lonsmount Drive, between Bathurst Street and Tichester Road, would be beneficial, it may approve the following:

1. Polling Registry Services poll eligible householders on Lonsmount Drive, between Bathurst Street and Tichester 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 Lonsmount Drive, between Bathurst Street and Tichester Road, for traffic calming purposes, generally as shown on the copy of Drawing No. 421G-0789, dated August 2012, attached to the report dated August 15, 2012, entitled "Traffic Calming – Lonsmount Drive", 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 Lonsmount Drive, between Bathurst Street and Tichester Road, when the speed humps are installed.

**Conduct Poll**

As noted above, the City of Toronto traffic calming policy stipulates residents who would be directly affected by installing speed humps on Lonsmount Drive 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. Should Toronto and East York Community Council approve the alternate recommendations outlined above, Transportation Services would request a poll of eligible residents on Lonsmount Drive, between Bathurst Street and Tichester Road. 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. Lonsmount Drive, between Bathurst Street and Tichester Road, scored an average of 30 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. A copy of this report will be sent to the emergency services requesting their comments on this proposal.

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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-0789, dated August 2012
(2) Appendix A – Table 1: Traffic Calming Warrant Criteria