



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Finch Avenue West from Humberline Drive to Humber College Boulevard - Speed Limit Amendment

Date:	March 5, 2013
To:	Etobicoke York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services - Etobicoke York District
Wards:	Ward 1 – Etobicoke North
Reference Number:	p:\2013\Cluster B\TRA\EtobicokeYork\eycc130049-to

SUMMARY

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

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval to increase the speed limit from 50 km/h to 60 km/h on Finch Avenue West, between Humberline Drive and Humber College Boulevard.

The roadway characteristics and 85th percentile speeds recorded on Finch Avenue West are more consistent with roads with 60 km/h speed limits. Accordingly, a 60 km/h speed limit is appropriate on this section of Finch Avenue West. Approving this report will result in an extension of the existing 60 km/h speed limit regulation to now include Finch Avenue West from Humberline Drive to Humber College Boulevard.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that Etobicoke York Community Council approve:

1. Rescinding the existing 60 km/h speed limit on Finch Avenue West between King's Hwy No. 427 and Humberline Drive
2. Enacting a 60 km/h speed limit on Finch Avenue West between King's Hwy No. 427 and Humber College Boulevard.

Financial Impact

Type of Funding	Source of Funds	Amount
Available within current budget	Transportation Services Operating Budget	\$800.00

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Transportation Services Division staff has received numerous complaints over the past couple of years from motorists driving on Finch Avenue West, between Humberline Drive and Humber College Boulevard that the 50 km/h speed limit is not appropriate on this road. They requested to increase the speed limit from the existing 50 km/h speed limit to 60 km/h. Many of these requests are pursuant to the police speed enforcement in this area. Map of the area is Attachment 1.

COMMENTS

Finch Avenue West between Humberline Drive and Humber College Boulevard is a four lane major arterial road with 50 km/h speed limit. Reverse frontage single family homes exist on south side with vacant open space and industrial on the north side on this section of Finch Avenue West. There are no residential driveways; however, two industrial driveways exist on north side of this section of Finch Avenue West (currently closed). The Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) provides service on Finch Avenue West.

When determining an appropriate speed limit on an arterial road we examine a number of different factors, which include the 85th percentile speed, the adjacent land use and the road way conditions. We often find that motorists tend to move at speed they feel comfortable based on the physical characteristics of the road rather than on the posted speed limit.

To assess existing traffic conditions, 24 hour vehicle speed (and volume) studies were conducted on this section of Finch Avenue West. The following table identifies the study results.

Speed Limit: 50 km/h

Finch Avenue West	Dir	Vehicle Speeds		Traffic Volume 24 hrs
		Operating	Average	
Between Humberline Drive and Humber College Blvd	EB	63	54	11,935
	WB	69	60	12,369

The results of the vehicle speed studies confirmed the operating speeds, the speed at which 85% of the traffic travels at or below are between 63 km/h and 69 km/h, and average speeds are between 54 km/h and 60 km/h. As shown by our speed study results, the majority of reasonable and prudent motorists are comfortable travelling at speeds above the 50 km/h speed limit, and are driving at a speed reflective of the road nature not the speed limit.

Based on our speed study results, and the nature of the road, 60 km/h is a more appropriate speed limit on Finch Avenue West, between Humberline Drive and Humber College Boulevard. This will result in a consistent 60 km/h speed limit from King's Highway No. 427 to Humber College Boulevard. When installed, the 60 km/h speed on this section of Finch Avenue West will be consistent with the traffic environment and should provide a safer environment for all road users.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENT:

Attachment 1: Map