Traffic Calming – Barrington Avenue

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<th>Date:</th>
<th>December 13, 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>Beaches–East York, Ward 31</td>
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**SUMMARY**

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

Transportation Services staff have investigated installing traffic calming on Barrington Avenue, between Balfour Avenue and Doncaster 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 met. Therefore, speed humps should not be installed on this section of Barrington Avenue at this time.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. Traffic calming not be installed on Barrington Avenue, between Balfour Avenue and Doncaster Avenue.

**Financial Impact**

The adoption of the above-noted recommendation will not result in any financial impacts.

If, however, Toronto and East York Community Council decides speed humps on Barrington Avenue, between Balfour Avenue and Doncaster Avenue, would be beneficial, the following financial impact will result:
1. The estimated cost for installing two speed humps would be $6,000.00. Funds have been requested in the Transportation Services 2013 Capital Budget for traffic calming initiatives. Installing speed humps on Barrington Avenue would be subject to competing priorities and funding availability.

**ISSUE BACKGROUND**

At the request of Councillor Janet Davis, on behalf of area residents, Transportation Services staff conducted a traffic study on Barrington Avenue, between Balfour Avenue and Doncaster Avenue, to determine whether traffic calming devices would address concerns with current traffic operations.

**COMMENTS**

Barrington Avenue, between Balfour Avenue and Doncaster Avenue, is a local street operating two-way with a posted speed limit of 40 km/h and a pavement width of 9.0 metres. Sidewalks exist on both sides of the roadway and the road grade is less than 5 percent. There is no TTC service on Barrington 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.

Barrington Avenue, between Balfour Avenue and Doncaster Avenue, 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. Therefore, the installation of traffic calming on Barrington Avenue, between Balfour Avenue and Doncaster Avenue, is not warranted.

Toronto Police Service collision records indicate that no collisions were reported on this section of Barrington Avenue for the three-year period ending December 31, 2011.

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 Barrington Avenue, between Balfour Avenue and Doncaster Avenue, would be beneficial, it may approve the following:

1. Polling Registry Services poll eligible householders on Barrington Avenue, between Balfour Avenue and Doncaster Avenue, to determine whether residents support the installation, in accordance with the City of Toronto traffic calming policy; and
2. Subject to favourable results of the poll:

   (a) The City Solicitor prepare a by-law to alter sections of the roadway on Barrington Avenue, between Balfour Avenue and Doncaster Avenue, for traffic calming purposes, generally as shown on the copy of Drawing No. 421G-0928, dated December 2012 attached to the report dated December 13, 2012, entitled "Traffic Calming – Barrington Avenue" 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 Barrington Avenue, between Balfour Avenue and Doncaster 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 this section of Barrington Avenue must be formally polled. A minimum response of 50 percent plus one ballot is established, of which at least 60 percent of the respondents must be in favour of 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, Polling Registry Services would poll eligible residents on this section of Barrington Avenue. If the poll supports speed humps, Transportation Services staff 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. Barrington Avenue, between Balfour Avenue and Doncaster Avenue, scored 22 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 October 25, 2012 (Appendix B). Toronto Police Service provided their comments in the attached letter dated November 2, 2012 (Appendix C). Both services are opposed to the installation of speed humps on Barrington Avenue at this time. Comments have not yet been received from the Toronto Fire Services.

**CONTACT**
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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-0928, December 2012
(2) Appendix A – Table 1: Traffic Calming Warrant Criteria
(3) Appendix B – October 25, 2012 letter from Toronto EMS
(4) Appendix C – November 2, 2012 letter from Toronto Police Service

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