SUMMARY

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

Transportation Services is requesting approval to reduce the speed limit on Whitaker Avenue from 50 km/h to 40 km/h. A 40 km/h speed limit is consistent with the warrant criteria approved by City Council and will enhance safety for all road users.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Implement a 40 km/h maximum speed limit on Whitaker Avenue, between Tecumseth Street and the westerly terminus.

2. Rescind the "No Parking, Anytime" regulation over the entire length of the north side of Whitaker Street.

3. Enact a "No Parking, Anytime" regulation over the entire length of the north side of Whitaker Avenue.

Financial Impact

Funds to undertake the necessary signage adjustments in the estimated amount of $200.00 are contained within Transportation Services 2013 Interim Operating Budget.
ISSUE BACKGROUND
Transportation Services staff has investigated a request from Councillor Mike Layton to reduce the speed limit on Whitaker Avenue to 40 km/h to improve safety.

COMMENTS
Whitaker Avenue is a local roadway that intersects the west side of Tecumseth Street, about 65 metres north of King Street West and 65 metres south of Adelaide Street West. It is a dead-end street and is about 110 metres in length. It operates with two-way traffic, a speed limit of 50 km/h and a road width of 6.4 metres. It aligns opposite Michener Court, which is located on the east side of Tecumseth Street. Whitaker Avenue is controlled by a "Stop" sign at the intersection with Tecumseth Street. Sidewalks are provided on both sides of Whitaker Avenue. There is no TTC service on this roadway.

The following parking regulations are in effect on Whitaker Avenue:

**North side**
- "No Parking, Anytime".

**South side**
- "No Parking, Except by Permit, 12:01 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., daily"; and
- "One-hour maximum time limit parking, 10:00 a.m. to 12:01 a.m., daily".

Toronto Police Service collision records for a three-year period ending June 30, 2012 were reviewed on Whitaker Avenue. The review disclosed that two collisions were reported. Further review of these two collisions determined that neither could be attributed to vehicles speeding on Whitaker Avenue.

Speed studies were undertaken on Whitaker Avenue in May of this year. The studies disclosed an average, daily two-way traffic volume of 90 vehicles. The average speed was 15 km/h and 85th percentile speed was 25 km/h. The 85th percentile speed represents the speed at which 85 percent of traffic is travelling at, or below.

Under current City Council Policy, in order for a 40 km/h speed limit to be warranted, various traffic conditions must be assessed, such as roadway width, pedestrian conditions (presence of elementary or junior high school, absence of sidewalks) and road and traffic environment (collision patterns, safe stopping distance).

Notwithstanding the speed study results, Transportation Services has evaluated Whitaker Avenue against these warrant criteria and found that a 40 km/h speed limit is justified. Specifically, the travelled portion of Whitaker Avenue is less than 5.7 metres when there are vehicles parked on the south side of the road. Therefore, staff have no objections to the reduction of the maximum speed limit on Whitaker Avenue to 40 km/h to provide a safer road environment for all users.
The staff review of the above-noted issue also determined an error in the traffic by-law. The by-law has improperly identified Whitaker Avenue as Whitaker Street. This amendment is outlined and will be addressed with the approval of Recommendation 2 of this report.

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LIST OF ATTACHMENTS
(1) Drawing No. 421G-0938, dated December 2012