Poll results – Benson Avenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>December 13, 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To:</td>
<td>Toronto and East York Community Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From:</td>
<td>Acting Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wards:</td>
<td>St. Paul’s, Ward 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference Number:</td>
<td>Ts2013015te.top.doc</td>
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**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.

At the request of Councillor Joe Mihevc, Transportation Services is reporting on the results of the traffic calming poll undertaken on Benson Avenue, between Wychwood Avenue and Christie Street. The poll provided a response rate of less than the 50 percent plus one ballot required by the traffic calming policy needed to confirm that there is a favourable consensus in the community to install traffic calming measures. Accordingly, continuing the process to install speed humps on Benson Avenue, between Wychwood Avenue and Christie Street, is not recommended.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Transportation Services recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Not approve the installation of traffic calming (speed humps) on Benson Avenue, between Wychwood Avenue and Christie Street.

**Financial Impact**

Adopting the above-noted recommendation carries no financial impact. If, however, Toronto and East York Community Council decides speed humps on Benson Avenue, between Wychwood Avenue and Christie Street, would be beneficial, the following financial impact will result:

1. The estimated cost for installing three speed humps would be $9,000.00. Funds have been requested in the Transportation Services 2013 Capital Budget for traffic
calming initiatives. Installing speed humps on Benson Avenue would be subject to competing priorities and funding availability.

DECISION HISTORY
At its meeting of September 11, 2012, Toronto and East York Community Council recommended the installation of speed humps on Benson Avenue, between Wychwood Avenue and Christie Street, subject to a favourable poll of residents (Item TE18.86).

COMMENTS
Councillor Mihevc has requested Transportation Services to report on the results of the poll undertaken in October/November 2012, regarding the installation of speed humps on Benson Avenue, between Wychwood Avenue and Christie Street.

The traffic calming policy as adopted by City Council, requires among other matters that staff undertake a poll of eligible voters on streets being considered for traffic calming and consult with Emergency Services.

With respect to the poll:

- a return rate of 50 percent plus one ballot; and
- a support rate of at least 60 percent of the valid responses is required.

The poll results for the subject section of Benson Avenue are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poll results</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of ballots mailed out</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of ballots received</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of ballots in favour</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of ballots opposed</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of ballots spoiled</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As shown in the above table, 27 of the 65 ballots mailed out were returned. This response rate of 42 percent is less than the minimum 50 percent plus one ballot response rate required to consider the poll valid in accordance with the current polling policy. When the polling requirements have not been met the process to install the proposed traffic calming measures should not go forward. Also, a two-year moratorium is imposed on further polling.

Comments from Emergency Services
Staff has received comments regarding the installation of speed humps on the subject section of Benson Avenue from Toronto Emergency Medical Services in a letter dated August 31, 2012 (Appendix A) and they oppose the installation of speed humps on Benson Avenue. Comments have not been received from Toronto Fire Services or Toronto Police Services.
**Notification of Residents**
Under the polling policy, residents of Benson Avenue have been notified in writing by the City Clerk that the speed hump poll on this street did not satisfy the required criteria and that any follow-up poll cannot be conducted for a period of two years. Residents have not been told specifically that speed humps will not be installed and have been advised that Toronto and East York Community Council has the final decision on the matter. However, they might interpret the failure of the poll as the final decision on this matter.

**Alternate Recommendations**
If Toronto and East York Community Council wishes to proceed with installing speed humps on Benson Avenue, between Wychwood Avenue and Christie Street, the following alternate recommendations should be adopted:

1. The City Solicitor prepare a by-law to alter the roadway to install three speed humps on Benson Avenue, between Wychwood Avenue and Christie Street, generally as shown on Drawing No. 421F-9362, dated July 2008, attached to the December 13, 2012 report entitled "Speed Hump Poll Results – Benson Avenue" from the Acting Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District; and

2. Transportation Services take the necessary actions to reduce the speed limit on Benson Avenue, between Wychwood Avenue and Christie Street, from 40 km/h to 30 km/h, when the speed humps are installed.

The estimated cost for installing three speed humps on Benson Avenue is $9,000.00. The installation of speed humps on Benson Avenue would be subject to funding availability and competing priorities in 2013.

**CONTACT**
Teresa Carmichael, Transportation Technologist
Traffic Operations, Toronto and East York District
Phone: (416) 338-5429; Fax: (416) 392-1920; e-mail: tcarmich@toronto.ca

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

**LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**
(1) Drawing No. 421F-9362, dated July 2008
(2) Appendix A - Letter from Toronto Emergency Medical Services, dated August 31, 2012