30 Km/h Speed Limits – Atkins Avenue and Shanly Street

Date: March 13, 2013
To: Toronto and East York Community Council
From: Acting Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District
Wards: Davenport, Ward 18
Reference Number: Ts2013064te.top.doc

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 staff have considered the request for a 30 km/h speed limit on Atkins Avenue and Shanly Street. In the City of Toronto, speed limits are not reduced below 40 km/h without the introduction of physical traffic calming measures. Introducing a 30 km/h speed limit alone would not be effective in reducing motorists’ speeds.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Enact a 40 km/h maximum speed limit on Atkins Avenue, between Brock Avenue and Sheridan Avenue.

2. Not enact a 30 km/h maximum speed limit on Shanly Street, between Dufferin Street and Delaware Avenue.

Financial Impact

Funds to undertake the necessary signage adjustments in the estimated amount of $200.00 are contained within the Transportation Services 2013 Operating Budget.
ISSUE BACKGROUND
Transportation Services staff has investigated a request from Councillor Ana Bailão to reduce the speed limits to 30 km/h on Atkins Avenue and on Shanly Street to improve safety.

COMMENTS
Transportation Services staff have considered the request for a 30 km/h speed limit on Atkins Avenue and Shanly Street. In the City of Toronto, speed limits are not reduced below 40 km/h without the introduction of physical traffic calming measures. Introducing a 30 km/h speed limit alone would not be effective in reducing motorists' speeds.

Generally, motorists travel at speeds that they perceive to be safe. The factors that most affect motorists' speeds are related to the roadway geometry, such as pavement width and grades, and activity adjacent to the roadway such as on-street parking, and busy sidewalks. In July 2002, City Council approved "Warrants for Implementing 40 km/h Speed Limit", which considers these factors.

When traffic calming measures, such as speed humps or pinch points, are introduced, the roadway geometry is permanently changed, making it uncomfortable or not possible to travel faster than 30 km/h. In these instances, a posted speed limit of 30 km/h is appropriate. With no physical changes to a local roadway, it is doubtful that signs for 30 km/h alone would have any impact on motorists' speeds.

Atkins Avenue and Shanly Street do not have any traffic calming devices and therefore the 40 km/h speed limit is the lowest speed limit that should be installed.

Atkins Avenue
Atkins Avenue, between Brock Avenue and Sheridan Avenue, is a local street operating one-way eastbound with a speed limit of 50 km/h and a pavement width of 5.5 metres. Sidewalks exist on both sides of the roadway and the road grade is less than 5 percent. There is no TTC service on Atkins Avenue. Speed studies on this section of Atkins Avenue revealed an operating speed (the speed at which 85 per cent of the motorists travelled at or below) of 34 km/h.

Toronto Police Service collision records indicate that one collision was reported on this section of Atkins Avenue for the three-year period ending June 30, 2012 which was not attributed to speeding.

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).

Transportation Services has evaluated Atkins Avenue against these warrant criteria and found that a 40 km/h speed limit is justified. Specifically, the travelled portion of Atkins
Avenue is less than 4.0 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 Atkins Avenue to 40 km/h to provide a safer road environment for all users.

**Shanly Street**

Shanly Street, between Dufferin Street and Delaware Avenue, is a local street operating two-way with a speed limit of 40 km/h and a pavement width of 7.3 metres. Sidewalks exist on both sides of the roadway and the road grade is less than 5 percent. There is no TTC service on Shanly Street. Speed studies on this section of Shanly Street revealed an operating speed of 37 km/h.

Toronto Police Service collision records indicate that no collisions were reported on this section of Shanly Street for the three-year period ending June 30, 2012.

Since the speed limit on Shanly Street is already 40 km/h and no physical traffic calming measures are provided, no changes to the speed limit are recommended.

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**SIGNATURE**

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**LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

(1) Drawing No. 421G-1033, dated March 2013