Traffic Calming – Old Forest Hill Road

Date: March 11, 2013

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

From: Acting Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District

Wards: St. Paul’s – Ward 21

Reference Number: Ts2013069te.top.doc

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 Old Forest Hill Road, between Hilltop Road and Glenarden Road, 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 Old Forest Hill Road at this time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Traffic calming not be installed on Old Forest Hill Road, between Hilltop Road and Glenarden Road.

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 Old Forest Hill Road, between Hilltop Road and Glenarden Road, would be beneficial, the following financial impact will result:
1. The estimated cost for installing five speed humps would be $15,000.00. Funds are available in the Transportation Services 2013 Capital Budget for traffic calming initiatives. Installing speed humps on Old Forest Hill Road would be subject to competing priorities and funding availability.

ISSUE BACKGROUND
At the request of Councillor Joe Mihevc, on behalf of area residents, Transportation Services staff conducted a traffic study on Old Forest Hill Road, between Hilltop Road and Glenarden Road, to determine whether traffic calming devices would address concerns with current traffic operations.

COMMENTS
Old Forest Hill Road, between Hilltop Road and Glenarden Road, is a local street operating two-way with a posted speed limit of 40 km/h. The pavement width is 7.3 metres and there is a sidewalk on the south side of Old Forest Hill Road, between Old Park Road and Glenarden Road. However, there are no sidewalks on either side of the street between Hilltop Road and Old Park Road. Traffic on this section of roadway is separated by a centre median. There is no TTC service on this section of Old Forest Hill Road.

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.

This section of Old Forest Hill Road does not meet all the criteria for installing traffic calming devices. Specifically, the operating speed of 46 to 49 km/h is below the minimum of 10 km/h over the existing posted speed limit. Also, the presence of a sidewalk on at least one side of the road is essential in providing a safe environment for all road users. Old Forest Hill Road, between Hilltop Road and Old Park Road, does not meet this requirement. Toronto Police Service collision records indicate there have been no recorded collisions on this section of Old Forest Hill Road for the three-year period ending December 31, 2012.

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 Old Forest Hill Road, between Hilltop Road and Glenarden Road, would be beneficial, it may approve the following:

1. Polling Registry Services poll eligible householders on Old Forest Hill Road, between Hilltop Road and Glenarden Road, to determine whether residents support the installation, in accordance with the City of Toronto traffic calming policy.

2. Subject to favourable results of the poll:
(a) The City Solicitor prepare a by-law to alter sections of the roadway on Old Forest Hill Road, between Hilltop Road and Glenarden Road, for traffic calming purposes, generally as shown on the attached copy of Drawing No. 421G-1011, dated March 2013, and

(b) Transportation Services take the necessary actions to reduce the speed limit from 40 km/h to 30 km/h on Old Forest Hill Road, between Hilltop Road and Glenarden Road, 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 Old Forest Hill Road must be formally polled. A minimum response of 50 percent plus one ballot is required, of these replies, 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 the subject section of Old Forest Hill Road. 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. Old Forest Hill Road, between Hilltop Road and Old Park Road, scored 25 ranking points out of a possible 100 and 15 ranking points on the block between Old Park Road and Glenarden Road.

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. At the time of preparation of this report, comments had not yet been received from these services.

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SIGNATURE

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LIST OF ATTACHMENTS
(1) Drawing No. 421G-1011, dated March 2013
(2) Appendix A – Table 1: Traffic Calming Warrant Criteria