Traffic Calming – Eldon Avenue

Date: August 13, 2013
To: Toronto and East York Community Council
From: Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District
Wards: Beaches – East York, Ward 31
Reference Number: Ts2013146te.top

SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter for which the 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 Eldon Avenue, between Danforth Avenue and Dentonia Park 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 Eldon Avenue at this time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Traffic calming not be installed on Eldon Avenue, between Danforth Avenue and Dentonia Park Avenue.

Financial Impact
The adoption of the above-noted recommendation will not result in any financial impact.

If, however, Toronto and East York Community Council decides speed humps on Eldon Avenue, between Danforth Avenue and Dentonia Park Avenue, would be beneficial, the following financial impact will result:

1. The estimated cost for installing four speed humps would be $12,000.00. Funds have been allocated in the Transportation Services 2013 Capital Budget for traffic
calming initiatives. Installing speed humps on Eldon 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 Eldon Avenue, between Danforth Avenue and Dentonia Park Avenue, to determine whether traffic calming devices would address concerns with current traffic operations.

COMMENTS
Eldon Avenue, between Danforth Avenue and Dentonia Park Avenue, is a local street operating two-way, northbound and southbound, with a pavement width of 9.0 metres. Eldon Avenue has a speed limit of 40 km/h. Sidewalks exist on both sides of the roadway and the road grade is less than 5 percent. There is no TTC route on Eldon 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.

Eldon Avenue, between Danforth Avenue and Dentonia Park Avenue, does not meet all the criteria for installing traffic-calming devices. Specifically, the 48 km/h operating speed recorded is below the minimum of 10 km/h over the existing posted speed limit. Also, the average daily traffic volume recorded was 745 vehicles, which is below the minimum of 1,000 vehicles per day needed to satisfy the traffic calming installation criteria. Therefore, the installation of traffic calming on Eldon Avenue, between Danforth Avenue and Dentonia Park Avenue, is not warranted.

A review of the Toronto Police Service collision records for a three-year period ending December 31, 2012 disclosed that two collisions were reported on Eldon Avenue, between Danforth Avenue and Dentonia Park Avenue. These collisions were not related to speeding.

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 Eldon Avenue, between Danforth Avenue and Dentonia Park Avenue, would be beneficial, it may approve the following:

1. Polling Registry Services poll eligible householders on Eldon Avenue, between Danforth Avenue and Dentonia Park 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 Eldon Avenue, between Danforth Avenue and Dentonia Park Avenue, for traffic calming purposes, generally as shown on the copy of Drawing No. 421G-1166, dated August, 2013 attached to the report dated August 13, 2013, entitled "Traffic Calming – Eldon Avenue " from the 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 Eldon Avenue, between Danforth Avenue and Dentonia Park 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 Eldon 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 Eldon 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. Eldon Avenue, between Danforth Avenue and Dentonia Park Avenue, scored 7 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 January 30, 2013 (Appendix B). Emergency Medical Services is opposed to the installation of speed humps on Eldon Avenue at this time. Comments have not yet been received from the Toronto Fire Services and Toronto Police Service.

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS
(1) Drawing No. 421G-1166, dated August, 2013
(2) Appendix A – Table 1: Traffic Calming Warrant Criteria
(3) Appendix B – January 30, 2013 letter from Toronto EMS