



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Traffic Calming – Withrow Avenue

Date:	October 23, 2013
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District
Wards:	Toronto-Danforth, Ward 30
Reference Number:	Ts2013188te.top.docx

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 reviewed the need for traffic calming on Withrow Avenue, between Carlaw Avenue and Pape 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 satisfied. Therefore, speed humps should not be installed on Withrow Avenue at this time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Traffic calming not be installed on Withrow Avenue, between Carlaw Avenue and Pape 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 Withrow Avenue, between Carlaw Avenue and Pape Avenue, would be beneficial, the following financial impact will result:

1. The estimated cost for installing two speed humps would be \$6,000.00. Funds are available in the Transportation Services 2013 Capital Budget for traffic calming initiatives. Installing speed humps on this section of Withrow Avenue, between

Carlaw Avenue and Pape Avenue, would be subject to competing priorities and funding availability.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Transportation Services staff reviewed the need for traffic calming on Withrow Avenue, between Carlaw Avenue and Pape Avenue, in response to a residents' petition for speed humps. Councillor Paula Fletcher has requested staff to submit a report on the results of this review to Toronto and East York Community Council.

COMMENTS

Withrow Avenue, between Carlaw Avenue and Pape Avenue, is a local street operating one-way westbound with a pavement width of 6.4 metres and a maximum speed limit of 40 km/h. Sidewalks exist on both sides of the roadway. The TTC does not operate a service on Withrow 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.

Withrow Avenue, between Carlaw Avenue and Pape Avenue, does not meet all the criteria for installing traffic-calming devices. Specifically, the operating speed of 33 km/h is less than the minimum of 10 km/h over the existing posted speed limit required in the traffic calming policy. Also, this section of Withrow Avenue has an average daily vehicle volume of 929, less than the required minimum 1,000 vehicles per day. Accordingly, installing speed humps on Withrow Avenue, between Carlaw Avenue and Pape Avenue, is not technically warranted.

A review of Toronto Police Service collision records for a three-year period ending July 31, 2013 did not find any reported collisions on Withrow Avenue attributed 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 Withrow Avenue, between Carlaw Avenue and Pape Avenue, would be beneficial, it may approve the following:

1. Polling Registry Services poll eligible householders on Withrow Avenue, between Carlaw Avenue and Pape Avenue, 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 Withrow Avenue, between Carlaw Avenue and Pape Avenue, for traffic

calming purposes, generally as shown on the copy of Drawing No. 421G-1236, dated October 2013, attached to the report dated October 23, 2013, entitled " Traffic Calming –Withrow Avenue", from the Director, Transportation Services, Toronto 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 Withrow Avenue, between Carlaw Avenue and Pape 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 Withrow Avenue, between Carlaw Avenue and Pape Avenue, must be formally polled. A minimum response of 50 percent plus one ballot is required, of which at least 60 percent of the respondents must support 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, Transportation Services would request a poll of eligible residents on Withrow Avenue, between Carlaw Avenue and Pape Avenue. If the poll supports speed humps, Transportation Services 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. Withrow Avenue, between Carlaw Avenue and Pape Avenue, scored 9 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 in order to ensure that the design and layout of a traffic calming proposal does not unduly affect their operations. Toronto Fire Services provided their comments in the attached letter dated October 18, 2013 (Appendix B). Toronto Fire is opposed to the installation of speed humps on Withrow Avenue at this time. Comments have not yet been received from Toronto Emergency Medical Services and the Toronto Police Service.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Drawing No. 421G-1236, dated October 2013
- (2) Appendix A - Table 1: Traffic Calming Warrant Criteria
- (3) Appendix B - October 18, 2013 letter from Toronto Fire

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