



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### School Speed Zone – 4319 Bloor Street West (St. Clement Catholic School)

<b>Date:</b>	April 16, 2014
<b>To:</b>	Etobicoke York Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Director, Transportation Services - Etobicoke York District
<b>Wards:</b>	Ward 3 – Etobicoke Centre
<b>Reference Number:</b>	p:\2014\Cluster B\TRA\EtobicokeYork\eycc140069-to

#### SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is obtain approval for the designation of a School Speed Zone on Bloor Street West in the area of St. Clement Catholic School, 4319 Bloor Street West. During the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, the speed limit on this section of Bloor Street West would be reduced from 50 km/h to 40 km/h and motorists would be alerted by flashing beacons on both sides of a sign placed upstream in both directions. This proposal, part of the City-wide school safety improvement strategy, is a pilot project to assess the effectiveness of new installations with and without police enforcement.

As the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates bus service on this section of Bloor Street West, City Council approval of this report is required.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

##### Transportation Services recommends that:

- (1) City Council designate a School Speed Zone on Bloor Street West, between a point approximately 85 metres west of Mill Road and a point approximately 150 metres east of Forestview Road.

#### Financial Impact

Type of Funding	Source of Funds	Amount
Available within current budget	Transportation Services Operating Budget	\$20,000.00

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

A request has been forwarded by the office of Councillor Leon, on behalf of parents of students attending St. Clement Catholic School, 4139 Bloor Street West (east of Mill Road) to have the existing 50 km/h speed limit on Bloor Street West lowered to 40 km/h in the area of the school. A map of the area is attachment 1.

## **COMMENTS**

Bloor Street West, in the area of 4139 Bloor Street West is classified in the City's road system as a "minor arterial" with a daily volume of approximately 15,300 vehicles. The road has two lanes in each direction, with a pavement width of 13.7 metres. There are sidewalks on both sides of the road with grass boulevard located between the sidewalk and the curb. Traffic control signals in the area of the school are located at the intersections of Bloor Street West and Mill Road, and Bloor Street West and Forestview Road.

As aforementioned, the current speed limit on Bloor Street West in the area of St. Clement Catholic School is 50 km/h. Recent radar speed studies conducted in the area of the school on a typical weekday revealed an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed (the speed at which 85% percent of the traffic is travelling at or below) of 61 km/h between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. (school commencement period), and an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 60 km/h between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. (school dismissal period).

Although a lower 40 km/h speed limit is not warranted on this section of Bloor Street West given that the road width is greater than the maximum 10.5 metre requirement stipulated in the City-wide 40 km/h warrant, staff recommends the designation of a School Speed Zone on Bloor Street West between a point approximately 85 metres west of Mill Road and a point approximately 150 metres east of Forestview Road. This proposal is a pilot project to assess the effectiveness of new installations with and without police enforcement and is part of the City-wide school safety improvement strategy.

During the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, the speed limit on this section of Bloor Street West would be reduced from 50 km/h to 40 km/h and motorists would be alerted by flashing beacons on both sides of a sign placed upstream in both directions.

It should be noted that two School Speed Zones are currently designated (and have been for a number of years) on sections of four-lane "major arterial" roadways in the City of Toronto; Avenue Road between a point 10 metres north of Willowbank Boulevard and a point 10 metres north of Briar Hill Avenue (north of Lawrence Avenue West), and Keele Street between a point approximately 245 metres south of Glenlake Avenue and a point approximately 122 metres north of Glenlake Avenue (north of Bloor Street West).

Although recent speed studies on these sections of road have revealed that compliance to the 40 km/h speed limit is minimal, staff speculates that traffic on these sections of road

has become accustomed to ignoring the "flashing" signs due to the age of the installations and the absence of regular speed enforcement. This notion will be tested with our Bloor Street West proposal.

As the TTC operates bus service on this section of Bloor Street West, City Council approval of this report is required.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Steven T. Kodama, P.Eng.

Director, Transportation Services, Etobicoke York District

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1                      Map