40 km/h Speed Zones: Banting Avenue, Embro Drive, Findlay Boulevard and Reiner Road

Date: November 24, 2014
To: North York Community Council
From: Director, Transportation Services, North York District
Wards: Ward 10-York Centre
Reference Number: p:/2015/ClusterB/TRA/NorthYork/ny15009

SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter that the Community Council has delegated authority to make a final decision, provided that it is not amended so that it varies with City policy or by-laws.

Transportation Services is requesting approval to amend the 50 km/h speed limit zone on Banting Avenue, Embro Drive, Findlay Boulevard and Reiner Road to 40 km/h.

The amendments to the regulatory speed limit will legitimize the on-street signage on these roadways.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that North York Community Council:

1. Approve the implementation of a 40 km/h speed limit on Banting Avenue.
2. Approve the implementation of a 40 km/h speed limit on Embro Drive.
3. Approve the implementation of a 40 km/h speed limit on Findlay Boulevard.
4. Approve the implementation of a 40 km/h speed limit on Reiner Road, from Wilson Heights Boulevard to Banting Avenue.
FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact associated with the adoption of this report.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Transportation Services was requested by the Ward Councillor, on behalf of the community, to investigate the increased level of traffic and vehicle speeds on Banting Avenue, Embro Drive, Findlay Boulevard and Reiner Road, which are located within the southwest quadrant of Sheppard Avenue West and Wilson Heights Boulevard. This investigation is ongoing. This investigation is ongoing. However the speed limit regulations on these streets should be changed to match the posted signs.

COMMENTS

Banting Avenue and Reiner Road form a continuous roadway connecting Wilson Heights Boulevard and Sheppard Avenue West. Both roadways are designated as two-lane local roadways with posted speed limits of 40 km/h, and consist of single family residential properties and a community park located on the west side of Banting Avenue (Banting Park). Embro Drive and Findlay Boulevard are also designated as local roadways with a posted speed limit of 40 km/h.

During our review of the existing site conditions, we noted that the on-street signage indicates that the speed limit is 40 km/h on Banting Avenue, Embro Drive, Findlay Boulevard and Reiner Road from Wilson Heights Boulevard to Banting Avenue. However, the existing by-laws indicate that the speed limit is 50 km/h.

In June of 2008, North York Community Council adopted a staff report indicating that the warrant for the installation of a 40 km/h zone was not warranted. In view of the residents’ requests, this division had undertaken 24-hour vehicle volume and speed studies on all of the above-noted roadways. The results of these studies at that time were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dir</th>
<th>Speed Limit (km/h)</th>
<th>Volumes</th>
<th>Vehicle Speeds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>24 Hour</td>
<td>AM Peak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banting Avenue</td>
<td>NB</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SB</td>
<td></td>
<td>241</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embro Drive</td>
<td>WB</td>
<td></td>
<td>32</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EB</td>
<td></td>
<td>40</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Findlay Boulevard</td>
<td>NB</td>
<td></td>
<td>79</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SB</td>
<td></td>
<td>60</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reiner Road</td>
<td>WB</td>
<td></td>
<td>201</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EB</td>
<td></td>
<td>217</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

40 km/h speed zones: Banting Ave/Embro Dr/Findlay Blvd/Reiner Rd
The City of Toronto policy for introducing a 40 km/h speed limit considers various roadway characteristics, safety concerns, collision patterns and the location of pedestrian generators such as schools, parks and the absence of municipal sidewalks. As there are municipal sidewalks on all of the above-noted roadways, a reduction in the speed limit to 40 km/h was not warranted.

However, given that the signage identifying these roadways as 40 km/h zones has been inadvertently installed, staff is recommending the implementation of 40 km/h speed limit on Banting Avenue, Embro Drive, Findlay Boulevard and Reiner Road from Wilson Heights Boulevard to Banting Avenue. The introduction of the appropriate by-law will legitimize the on-street signage, eliminate any confusion for motorists and ensure that there are no issues with regards to enforcement of the signage.

The Ward Councillor has been advised of the recommendations contained within this staff report.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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Jacqueline White P. Eng.
Director

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Location Map – Banting Ave, Embro Dr, Findlay Blvd and Reiner Rd: 40 km/h Speed Limit