



Councillor Josh Matlow

Ward 22, St. Paul's

City Hall, 100 Queen Street West
2nd Floor, Suite B26
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

Tel: 416-392-7906
Fax: 416-392-0124
councillor_matlow@toronto.ca
www.joshmatlow.ca



Chair & Members

Public Works & Infrastructure Committee
10th Floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen St. West
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

April 8, 2015

Dear Chair & Committee Members,

All of us work very hard with our communities to keep them as safe as possible. Protecting pedestrians and cyclists from traffic is one of the most serious concerns from residents across all wards.

Unfortunately, there are some tragic accidents that no traffic calming measure will prevent. However, that doesn't negate our responsibility to everything we can to improve safety in our neighbourhoods.

Recently, the Chief Medical Officer of Health for the City of Toronto recommended reducing the speed limit to 30 km/h on most residential streets. His report noted that the pedestrians have an over 20% chance of dying when hit by a car travelling at 40 km/h but fatality rates decrease to less than 5% when hit by a car that travels at 30 km/h. After 30 km/h zones were introduced in London, England, these zones experienced a 42% reduction in fatalities.

Given that the research indicates that reducing the speed limit from 40 km/h to 30 can be the difference between life and death, I wrote a letter to Toronto & East York Community Council at its meeting of August 12, 2014 requesting City staff to provide recommendations to Community Council on lowering the speed limit, where possible, to 30 km/h on local streets within areas designated "Neighbourhood" in Ward 22.

This initiative was so welcomed by my colleagues that an amendment was moved to extend the report to the entirety of the Toronto & East York Community Council area. Toronto & East York Community Council unanimously approved:

"Transportation Services staff report back to the first Toronto and East York Community Council meeting of the next term of Council on lowering the speed limit to 30 km/h on all local streets and, where possible, collector roads, within areas designated by the City's Official Plan as "Neighbourhood" in the Toronto and East York Community Council area."

Unfortunately, Staff have not responded to this report request. PW 3.3 - *Proposed 30 km/h Speed Limit Policy* presents an onerous, street-by-street process that would create an ad-hoc mechanism for implementing 30 km/h speed limits on local roads.

My community, and many others across Toronto, are concerned about pedestrian safety. It is incumbent upon Council to explore every opportunity available to make neighbourhoods safer.

Thank you for your consideration of the following motion.

Recommendation:

1. Transportation Services staff report back to the June 2015 meeting of the Public Works & Infrastructure Committee on lowering the speed limit to 30 km/h on all local streets and, where possible, collector roads, within areas designated by the City's Official Plan as "Neighbourhood" in the Toronto and East York Community Council area.

Sincerely,

Josh Matlow
Toronto City Councillor
Ward 22 – St. Paul's