



To: Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
From: Mark Jacobs, Walk Toronto
Subject: Traffic Calming Options Manual (PW9.16)
Date: November 11, 2015

Walk Toronto is a grassroots walking advocacy group dedicated to making Toronto a better city for walking.

The City of Toronto Transportation Services is in the process of drafting a Road Safety Plan to make the City's streets safer for all users. Walk Toronto recognizes the need for improved road safety and is a member of the Steering Committee for the Toronto Road Safety Strategic Plan. The chair of the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee, Councillor Jaye Robinson, has requested that the Road Safety Plan include an easy-to-use traffic calming manual. Walk Toronto believes this to be a positive step towards increased pedestrian safety.

Various traffic calming measures in Toronto and other jurisdictions are proven tools to make streets safer for pedestrians and should be a component to the Road Safety Plan. Speed humps, line markings and signage are amongst many potential traffic calming options that can be introduced into particular areas of the road network to reduce vehicular speeds. Other options include chicanes and curb extensions, with the latter providing additional benefits for pedestrians with a reduced distance to cross a street. There is a vast amount of literature and resources available on traffic calming that can be drawn upon in preparation of an easy-to-use manual for neighbourhood and community groups. Not only are various traffic calming options outlined, the costs and effectiveness of these options are provided as well.

Some of the best resources available come from organizations such as the U.S. DOT Federal Highway Administration, Transportation Association of Canada and Canadian Institute of Transportation Engineers (CITE). Many of these resources are online and available to anyone who is interested. A couple that are noteworthy include the *Pedestrian Safety Guide and Countermeasure Selection System*¹ prepared by the Federal Highway Administration, and the *Canadian Guide to Neighbourhood Traffic Calming*². This guide, produced by the Transportation

¹ <http://pedbikesafe.org/PEDSAFE/index.cfm>

² <http://tac-atc.ca/en/projects/progress/traffic-calming-guide>

Association of Canada and CITE, is currently being updated and is referred to by the City's own Traffic Calming Policy (2010).

When it comes to road safety, traffic calming is just one manner that keeps pedestrians safe from vehicular traffic. Road design is another major element that can also make an impact on driver behaviour. Narrower streets with trees and parked cars send a message to drivers to slow down. The reduction of lane widths from 12 feet to 10 feet is a step in the right direction.

Regardless of which measures are included in the proposed traffic calming manual, it is important that the manual is made widely available to the general public. Having the manual available online, accompanied with a comprehensive list of resources, will provide residents and neighbourhood groups with a slew of options that they can champion for their local area.

Sincerely,

Mark Jacobs, BURPI, MCIP, on behalf of Walk Toronto