

Councillor **Mike Layton**



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August 17, 2015

Dear Chair and Scarborough Community Council,

Re: Making our residential streets safe – local road speed limit reduction

At the request of the Toronto and East York Community Council, I am forwarding a recent decision to reduce the speed limit from 40 km/h to 30 km/h on all local roads within the Toronto and East York Community Council area. Attached is a copy of the decision made at a special session of Toronto and East York Community Council on June 22, 2015.

The Community Council made this decision in response to a staff report (TE 8.1) which outlined the benefits of a reduced speed limit on local roads (p.7-8):

- Improved safety for pedestrians and cyclists – severity of injuries and fatalities may be reduced further.
- Improved visibility for motorists - slower speeds also mean that motorists will have better visibility of the road and therefore a greater opportunity to react to unexpected events; allows time to brake and stop in shorter distances.
- Ensures a consistent posted speed limit on local roads, thereby reducing driver confusion.
- A lower speed limit typically makes traffic flow more uniformly by bringing slower drivers closer to the average speed of traffic, resulting in safer conditions.
- May encourage more active transportation thereby resulting in an increase in physical activity (i.e., walking and cycling) and community interaction.
- The introduction of a lower speed limit on local roads could result in a reduction in both fuel consumption and pollutant emissions (i.e., CO2) by motor vehicles; leading to improved air quality in the community.
- Noise reduction has usually been associated with lower speeds.

Cities around the world have made similar changes to speed limits in dense urban neighbourhoods including Paris and New York City. International movements, like 20 is Plenty (20splentyforus.org.uk, referring to 20 miles per hour not kilometers per hour), have growing traction in municipal and regional jurisdictions in an effort to reduce fatalities resulting from pedestrian and vehicle collisions.

Thank you for your attention.

Mike Layton
Chair, Toronto and East York Community Council