



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Traffic Calming – Alton Avenue

Date:	January 26, 2015
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District
Wards:	Toronto-Danforth, Ward 30
Reference Number:	Ts2015009te.top.doc

SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter for which Toronto and East York Community Council has delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision.

Transportation Services reviewed the need for traffic calming on Alton Avenue, between Queen Street East and Dundas Street East at the request of Toronto and East York Community Council (Item TE34.187). Our assessment indicates the criteria as set out in the traffic calming policy has not been satisfied. Therefore, traffic calming (speed humps) should not be installed on Alton Avenue at this time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends to Toronto and East York Community Council that:

1. Traffic calming not be installed on Alton Avenue, between Queen Street East and Dundas Street East.

Financial Impact

The adoption of the above-noted recommendation will not result in any financial impact. If, however, Toronto and East York Community Council decides speed humps on Alton Avenue, between Queen Street East and Dundas Street East, would be beneficial, the following financial impact will result:

1. The estimated cost for installing three speed humps would be \$9,000.00. Funds are available in Transportation Services 2015 Capital Budget for traffic calming initiatives. Installing speed humps on this section of Alton Avenue would be subject to competing priorities and funding availability.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Toronto and East York Community Council at its meeting on August 12, 2014 requested the General Manager, Transportation Services to report on the need for speed humps on Alton Avenue, between Queen Street East and Dundas Street East, in response to a letter dated August 7, 2014 from Councillor Fletcher on behalf of residents.

COMMENTS

Alton Avenue, is an 8.5 metre wide local street that runs one-way northbound from Queen Street East to Dundas Street East with a 30 km/h speed limit. However the recently approved 30 km/h speed limit is not warranted so the traffic calming analysis was done based on the previous 40 km/h speed limit on Alton Avenue. The TTC does not operate a service on Alton Avenue.

Analysis

Vehicle speeds and traffic volumes are the prime criteria for installing traffic calming devices. Other factors, including road width, pedestrian facilities and gradient are also considered in the assessment.

Alton Avenue, between Queen Street East and Dundas Street East, does not meet all the criteria for installing traffic-calming devices. Specifically, the operating speed of 40 km/h is less than the required minimum of 10 km/h over a 40 km/h speed limit and the average daily traffic volume recorded was 748 vehicles, which is below the required minimum of 1,000 vehicles per day. Accordingly, installing speed humps on Alton Avenue, between Queen Street East and Dundas Street East is not technically warranted

A review of Toronto Police Service collision records for a three-year period ending October 31, 2014 did not find any reported collisions on the subject section of Alton Avenue attributed to speeding.

Appendix A entitled "Table 1: Traffic Calming Warrant Criteria – Alton Avenue" outlines the results of our assessment.

Alternate Recommendations

If, despite the findings above, Toronto and East York Community Council determines that installing speed humps on Alton Avenue, between Queen Street East and Dundas Street East, would be beneficial, it may approve the following:

That the Toronto and East York Community Council direct that:

1. The Director of Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District request the City Clerk to poll eligible householders on Alton Avenue, between Queen Street East and Dundas Street East, to determine whether residents support the installation of traffic calming, in accordance with the City of Toronto Traffic Calming Policy.
2. Subject to favourable results of the poll:

- a. The City Solicitor prepare a by-law to alter sections of the roadway on Alton Avenue, between Queen Street East and Dundas Street East, for traffic calming purposes, generally as shown on the copy of Drawing No. 421G-1580, dated November 2014, attached to the report dated January 26, 2015 from the Director, Transportation Services, Toronto East York District.

Conduct Poll

The City of Toronto Traffic Calming Policy stipulates residents who would be directly affected by installing speed humps on Alton Avenue, between Queen Street East and Dundas Street East, must be formally polled. A minimum response of 50 percent plus one ballot is required, of which at least 60 percent of the respondents must support installing speed humps in order to proceed with the installation. Subject to approval by Toronto and East York Community Council of the alternate recommendations outlined above, Transportation Services would request a poll of eligible residents on Alton Avenue, between Queen Street East and Dundas Street East. If the poll supports speed humps, Transportation Services would schedule installation based on relative need and competing priorities.

Relative Priority and Other Impacts

Relative need and priority of speed hump installation is based on a technical assessment of traffic volume, vehicle speed percentages, speed-related collisions, and the presence of schools, parks, seniors' residences or bicycle routes. Alton Avenue, between Queen Street East and Dundas Street East, scored 7 ranking points out of a possible 100.

No alterations to parking regulations are required, nor would the number of parking spaces be affected by the installation of speed humps. Installation of speed humps will have minimal effect on winter services, street cleaning and garbage collection.

Speed humps will result in slower operating speeds for all vehicles, including emergency service vehicles, and could result in increased response times in the event of an emergency.

Emergency Services Comments

Consultation with emergency services (Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services) is required in order to ensure that the design and layout of a traffic calming proposal does not unduly affect their operations. Comments have not yet been received from Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Toronto Fire Services and the Toronto Police Service.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Drawing No. 421G-1580, November 2014
- (2) Appendix A – Table 1: Traffic Calming Warrant Criteria – Alton Avenue

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