Traffic Calming and One-way Operation – Dalton Road

Date: May 10, 2016
To: Toronto and East York Community Council
From: Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District
Wards: Trinity – Spadina, Ward 20
Reference Number: Ts2016123te.top.doc

SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter that 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 staff have reviewed the need for traffic calming and/or the conversion to a one-way operation on Dalton Road, between Lowther Avenue and Bloor Street West. These changes were proposed to address residents' concerns regarding vehicle speeds and traffic volumes. Our assessment indicates the criteria as set out in the traffic calming policy has not been satisfied on this roadway. Therefore, traffic calming should not be installed on the subject section of Dalton Street.

Transportation Services has reviewed the request for a one-way southbound operation on Dalton Road, between Lowther Avenue and Bloor Street West and have determined that there are no objections to the proposal.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Deny the installation of traffic calming on Dalton Road, between Lowther Avenue and Bloor Street West.
2. Approve a one-way southbound operation on Dalton Road, between Lowther Avenue and Bloor Street West.
3. Rescind the stop sign control on Dalton Road at Lowther Avenue.

4. Rescind the parking prohibition in effect at any time from December 1 of one year to March 31 of the next following year, inclusive, on the west side of Dalton Road, between Bloor Street West and Lowther Road.

5. Rescind the parking prohibition in effect at any time from December 1 of one year to March 31 of the next following year, inclusive, on the west side of Dalton Road.

Financial Impact
Funds to undertake the installation of signs and pavement markings for the one-way conversions are contained in Transportation Services 2016 Operating Budget.

ISSUE BACKGROUND
Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District, was requested by Councillor Joe Cressy, on behalf of area residents to report on the need for speed humps and/or the conversion of a one-way operation on Dalton Road, between Lowther Avenue and Bloor Street West. The area residents are concerned with the speeds and volume of traffic using Dalton Road.

COMMENTS

Existing Conditions
Dalton Road, between Lowther Avenue and Bloor Street West, is a local road that operates two-way traffic on a pavement width of about 7.5 metres. It has a daily traffic volume of about 620 vehicles and a posted speed limit of 30 km/h. Heavy vehicles are prohibited at all times and there is no TTC service provided on Dalton Road.

Analysis
Transportation Services conducted speed and volume studies on December 8-10, 2015. It should be noted that the study is based on the warranted speed limit of 40 km/h. The results of the study indicated that Dalton Road, between Lowther Avenue and Bloor Street West, did not meet all the criteria for installing traffic calming devices. More specifically:

- The operating speed of 39 km/h is less than the required minimum of 10 km/h over the warranted speed limit to satisfy the traffic calming installation criteria; and
- The daily volume of 620 vehicles is less than the minimum 1,000 vehicles per day requirement.

Therefore, the installation of traffic calming on Dalton Road, between Lowther Avenue and Bloor Street West, is not warranted.
A review of Toronto Police Service collision records for a three-year period ending December 31, 2015 disclosed that three collisions had occurred on the subject section of Dalton Road. Neither collision could be attributed to speeding.

Appendix A entitled "Table 1: Traffic Calming Warrant Criteria – Dalton Road" 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 Dalton Road, between Lowther Avenue and Bloor Street West, 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 Dalton Road, between Lowther Avenue and Bloor Street West, 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, the City Solicitor prepare a by-law to alter sections of the roadway on Dalton Road, between Lowther Avenue and Bloor Street West, for traffic calming purposes, generally as shown on the copy of Drawing No. 421G-2144, dated May 2016, attached to the report entitled 'Traffic Amendments and One-way Operation – Dalton Road' from the Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District."

The estimated cost for installing four speed humps on Dalton Road is $12,000.00. The installation of speed humps on Dalton Road would be subject to availability in Transportation Services 2017 Capital Funding and competing priorities.

**Conduct Poll**

The City of Toronto traffic calming policy stipulates residents who would be directly affected by installing speed humps on Dalton Road must be formally polled. A minimum response of 50 percent plus one ballot is required, of these replies, at least 60 percent must be in favour of 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, the City Clerk would poll eligible residents on Dalton Road. If the poll supports speed humps, Transportation Services staff 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. Dalton Road, between Lowther Avenue and Bloor Street West, scored 9 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 Paramedic Services) is required to ensure that the design and layout of a traffic calming proposal does not unduly affect their operations. Toronto Fire Services provided their comments in the attached letter dated February 25, 2016 (Appendix B). Comments have not been received from the Toronto Police Services and Toronto Paramedic Services.

One-way Operation
Transportation Services also reviewed the proposed conversion of Dalton Road, between Lowther Avenue and Bloor Street West, from a two-way to a one-way southbound operation. The daily traffic volume on this street is comprised of about 500 and 120 northbound and southbound motorists, respectively. Accordingly, the conversion of this street to a one-way southbound operation will significantly reduce the daily traffic volumes on Dalton Road and Transportation Services do not have any objections to this proposal.

However, the following negative impacts may result from the proposed one-way southbound operation:

- This change will impact area access, resulting in local residents being required to take a more circuitous route to and from their homes;
- Delivery vehicles using the loading zone on the east side of Dalton Road, north of Bloor Street West, will be required to travel the length of Dalton Road to access the designated curb-side area;
- About 500 northbound motorists per day will be diverted from Dalton Road to adjacent local roads. The most likely alternate routes for displaced traffic would be Howland Avenue and Walmer Road; and
- This change could potentially increase operating speeds, as southbound motorists on Dalton Road will have a wider lane of travel and no opposing traffic.
**Housekeeping Issues**
Transportation Services also detected inconsistencies in the traffic bylaw related to the current signed parking regulations on Dalton Road. These inconsistencies will be resolved with the approval of Recommendations No. 4 and 5 of this report.

Councillor Joe Cressy has been advised of the recommendations of this staff report.

**CONTACT**
Ann S. Khan, P. Eng.
Manager, Traffic Operations
Toronto and East York District
Transportation Services
Telephone: (416) 397-5021
Fax: (416) 392-1920
E-mail: akhan5@toronto.ca

**SIGNATURE**

Kyp Perikleous
Director, Transportation Services
Toronto and East York District

**LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**
1. Drawing No. 421G-2144, dated May 2016
2. Drawing No. 421G-2156, dated May 2016
3. Appendix A – Table 1: Traffic Calming Warrant Criteria