Traffic Calming - Squires Avenue

Date: April 10, 2017
To: Toronto and East York Community Council
From: Acting Director, Transportation Services, Toronto East York District
Wards: Ward 31, Beaches-East York

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 on Squires Avenue, between Tiago Avenue and St. Clair Avenue East, to address residents’ concerns regarding vehicle speeds. 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 Squires Avenue.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Acting Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District, recommends that:

1. Toronto and East York Community Council deny the installation of traffic calming on Squires Avenue, between Tiago Avenue and St. Clair Avenue East.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact resulting from the adoption of the recommendations in this report.
DETECTION HISTORY

This report addresses a new initiative.

COMMENTS

Existing Conditions
Squires Avenue, between Tiago Avenue and St. Clair Avenue East, is a local road that operates with two-way traffic. It has a posted speed limit of 30 km/h and a daily two-way traffic volume of about 600 vehicles. The pavement width on Squires Avenue is about 7.3 metres and there are sidewalks provided on both sides. Heavy trucks are prohibited at all times and there is no TTC service provided on Squires Avenue.

Analysis
Transportation Services conducted three days of mid-block speed and volume studies on Squires Avenue, between Tiago Avenue and St. Clair Avenue East, in December 2015. The studies were based on the warranted speed limit of 40 km/h. The study findings were assessed against the City of Toronto's traffic calming policy and it was found that Squires Avenue, between Tiago Avenue and St. Clair Avenue East, did not satisfy the installation criteria set for traffic calming devices. More specifically:

- The operating speed of 49 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 600 vehicles is less than the minimum 1,000 vehicles per day requirement.

Therefore, the installation of traffic calming on Squires Avenue, between Tiago Avenue and St. Clair Avenue East, is not warranted.

A review of Toronto Police Service collision records for a three-year period ending December 31, 2015 disclosed five collisions occurred on Squires Avenue, between Tiago Avenue and St. Clair Avenue East. Further review determined that none of the five collisions could be attributed to excessive speeds.

Appendix A entitled "Table 1: Traffic Calming Warrant Criteria – Squires 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 Squires Avenue, between Tiago Avenue and St. Clair Avenue East, would be beneficial, it may approve the following:
"That the Toronto and East York Community Council direct:

1. The Acting Director of Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District request the City Clerk to poll eligible householders on Squires Avenue, between Tiago Avenue and St. Clair Avenue 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, the City Solicitor prepare a by-law to alter sections of the roadway on Squires Avenue, between Tiago Avenue and St. Clair Avenue East, for traffic calming purposes, generally as shown on the copy of Drawing No. 421G-2468, dated April 2017, attached to the report entitled 'Traffic Calming – Squires Avenue' from the Acting Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District."

The estimated cost for installing five speed humps on Squires Avenue is $16,000.00. The installation of speed humps on Squires Avenue would be subject to availability in Transportation Services 2018 Capital Funding estimates and competing priorities.

**Conduct Poll**
The City of Toronto's traffic calming policy stipulates that residents who would be directly affected by installing speed humps on Squires Avenue, between Tiago Avenue and St. Clair Avenue East, 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. Should Toronto and East York Community Council approve the recommendations outlined above, Transportation Services would request a poll of eligible residents on Squires Avenue, between Tiago Avenue and St. Clair Avenue East. If the poll supports speed humps, Transportation Services would schedule installation based on relative need, competing priorities and funding availability.

**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. Squires Avenue, between Tiago Avenue and St. Clair Avenue East, scored 6 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.
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 Paramedic Services provided their comments in the attached letter dated September 21, 2016 (Appendix B). Comments have not been received from the Toronto Police Services and Toronto Fire Services.

Councillor Janet Davis 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: Ann.Khan@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Dave Twaddle, C.E.T.
Acting Director, Transportation Services
Toronto and East York District

ATTACHMENTS

1. Drawing No. 421G - 2468, dated May 2017
2. Appendix A - Table 1: Traffic Calming Warrant Criteria (Squires Avenue, between Tiago Avenue and St. Clair Avenue East)
3. Appendix B – Email from Toronto Paramedic Services, dated September 21, 2016
## Appendix A

### Table 1: Traffic Calming Warrant Criteria

Squires Avenue, between Tiago Avenue and St Clair Avenue East

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Warrant</th>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Met/Not Met</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Warrant 1 Petition | 1.1 Petition | A petition requesting traffic calming must be signed by at least 25% of households on the street.  
OR  
A direct request from the Ward Councillor.  
Warrants #2 and #3 will not be considered until Warrant #1 is satisfied. | Met – A direct request from Ward Councillor’s office |
| Impacts to Adjacent Streets | | No significant traffic impacts on adjacent streets | Met – There should be no traffic spill-over to adjacent streets |
| Warrant 2 Safety Requirements | 2.1 Sidewalks | Continuous sidewalks on at least one side of the street (both sides for collector streets or higher classification).  
OR  
Where there are no sidewalks, the installation of sidewalk on at least one side of the street must have first been considered. | Met – There are sidewalks present on both sides of the road |
| | 2.2 Road Grade | Road grade 5% or less  
OR  
Between 5% and 8% road grade may be considered  
Investigation must determine installation to be safe. | Met – The road grade on Squires Avenue is less than 5% |
| | 2.3 Emergency Response | No significant Impacts on Emergency Services - as determined in consultation with Emergency Services (Fire, Ambulance and Police) staff. | Comments have been requested |
| Warrant 3 Technical Requirements | 3.1 Minimum Speed | 85th percentile speed is a minimum of 10 km/h (but less than 15 km/h) over a warranted 40 km/h speed limit, and the traffic volume requirements of Warrant 3.2 must be fulfilled.  
OR  
On streets where the 85th percentile speed exceeds a warranted 40 km/h speed limit by a minimum of 15 km/h, there is no minimum volume required in warrant 3.2. | Not Met – Speed studies on Squires Avenue show 85th percentile speeds of 49 km/h from Furnival Road to Holmstead Avenue |
| | 3.2 Min. and Max. traffic Volume | Local Roads  
Traffic volume between 1,000 Veh/day and 8,000 Veh/day  
Collector Roads  
Traffic volume between 2,500 Veh/day and 8,000 Veh/day | Not Met – Local road with approximately 600 vehicles total daily volume from Holmstead Avenue to Furnival Road |
| | 3.3 Minimum Street Segment Length between stop controls | Street segment length must exceed 120 meters between stop controls (signals or stop signs) | Met – Squires Avenue between Tiago Avenue and St Clair Avenue, is about 460 metres in length |
| | 3.4 Transit Service | Impacts on regularly scheduled Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) services will not be significant (as determined in consultation with TTC staff) | Met – No TTC service on Squires Avenue |
Appendix B

Date September 21, 2016

Arshad Nazir
Transportation Services, Traffic Operations
City of Toronto
55 John Street, 27th Floor, Metro Hall,
Toronto, ON M5V 3C6

Re: Traffic Calming Measures – Squires Avenue between Tiago Avenue and St. Clair Avenue E. - Evaluation for the installation of traffic calming devices (i.e. Speed Humps).

Dear Mr. Nazir,

I have received and reviewed the proposal for installation of traffic calming devices (speed humps) on Squires Avenue between Tiago Avenue and St. Clair Avenue E.

Toronto Paramedic Services is supportive of community initiatives that improve the safety of all citizens of, and visitors to, the City of Toronto. Traffic and pedestrian safety are key components of a healthy neighborhood and we endeavor to support the wishes of the community to implement measures to improve upon these components.

As documented in the in the Traffic Calming Policy, Toronto Paramedic Services has concerns regarding the usage of traffic calming measures, especially vertical obstacle measures such as speed humps, as there are negative effects on emergency call response times, travel times to hospital and on patient comfort during transport. This delay is cumulative with each obstacle and can directly impact patient outcome.

In addition to concern for patient outcome and safety it is noted that this proposal does not meet the Warrant Criteria as set out in the Policy. Therefore, Toronto Paramedic Services is opposed to the installation of traffic calming devices on Squires Avenue between Tiago Avenue and St. Clair Avenue E. It is important that the applicant fully understands the potential for delay in emergency response and that alternatives to vertical measures be considered and evaluated.

Yours truly,

Dawn Ainsworth
Superintendent, Toronto Paramedic Services
Planning, Special Events & Emergency Management

Copy:  Giens\Planning\Documents\planning group\Projects\Traffic Calming Requests\2016\Squires Avenue