Speed Hump Poll Results - Heath Street West

Date: October 19, 2017
To: Toronto and East York Community Council
From: Acting Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District
Wards: Ward 22, St. Paul's

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 is reporting on the results of the traffic calming poll undertaken on Heath Street West, between Deer Park Crescent and Yonge Street. The poll provided a response rate of less than the 50 percent plus one ballot required by the traffic calming policy in order to confirm that there is a favourable consensus in the community to install speed humps on the subject section of Heath Street West.

Accordingly, continuing the process to install speed humps on Heath Street West, between Deer Park Crescent and Yonge Street, is not recommended.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Toronto and East York Community Council deny the installation of speed humps on Heath Street West, between Deer Park Crescent and Yonge Street.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

At its meeting of June 13, 2017, Toronto and East York Community Council recommended the installation of speed humps on Heath Street West, between Deer Park Crescent and Yonge Street, subject to a favourable poll of residents (Item TE25.99). The Council decision can be found at: http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.TE25.99

COMMENTS

Councillor Josh Matlow has requested Transportation Services to report on the results of the poll undertaken in July and August 2017, regarding the installation of speed humps on Heath Street West, between Deer Park Crescent and Yonge Street. The traffic calming policy, as adopted by City Council requires, among other matters, that staff undertake a poll of eligible voters on streets being considered for traffic calming and consult with Emergency Services. With respect to the poll:

- A return rate of 50 percent plus one ballot; and
- A support rate of at least 60 percent of the valid responses is required.

The poll results for the subject section of Heath Street West are as follows:

Poll Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of ballots mailed out</th>
<th>148</th>
<th>100%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of ballots received</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of ballots in favour</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of ballots opposed</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of ballots spoiled</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As shown in the above table, 74 of the 148 ballots mailed out were returned. This response rate is less than the required minimum 50 percent plus one ballot response rate.

When the polling requirements have not been met, the process to install the proposed traffic calming measures should not go forward. Also, a two-year moratorium is imposed on further polling.

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 May 18, 2017 (Appendix A). Comments have not been received from the Toronto Police Services and Toronto Fire Services.
Notification of Residents

Under the polling policy, residents of Heath Street West have been notified in writing by the City Clerk that the speed hump poll on this street did not satisfy the minimum required criteria and that any follow-up poll cannot be conducted for a period of two years. Residents have not been told specifically that speed humps will not be installed and have been advised that Toronto and East York Community Council has the final decision on the matter. However, they might interpret the failure of the poll as the final decision on this matter.

Alternate Recommendations

If, however, Toronto and East York Community Council wishes to proceed with installing speed humps on Heath Street West, between Deer Park Crescent and Yonge Street, the following alternate recommendations should be adopted:

1. The City Solicitor prepare a by-law to alter the roadway to install three speed humps on Heath Street West, between Deer Park Crescent and Yonge Street, generally as shown on Drawing No. 421G-2486, dated May 2017, attached to the report entitled “Speed Hump Poll Results – Heath Street West” from the Acting Director, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District.

The estimated cost for installing three speed humps on Heath Street West is $9,600.00. The installation of speed humps on Heath Street West would be subject to availability in Transportation Services 2018 Capital Funding and competing priorities.
Councillor Josh Matlow has been advised of the recommendations of this staff report.

**CONTACT**

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**SIGNATURE**

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

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Drawing No. 421G-2486, dated May 2017  
2. Appendix A - Letter from Toronto Paramedic Services, dated May 18, 2017

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May 18, 2017

Dan Clement
Traffic Operations
Transportation Services

Re: Traffic Calming Measures – on Heath Street West between Deer Park Crescent and Yonge Street – Evaluation for the installation of traffic calming measures (i.e. Speed Humps).

Dear Mr. Clement,

I have received and reviewed the proposal for installation of speed humps on Heath Street West between Deer Park Crescent and Yonge Street. I have the following comments:

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 Traffic Calming Policy, Toronto Paramedic Services has concerns regarding the usage of traffic calming measures, specifically vertical obstacle measures such as speed humps. These have a negative impact 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 Heath Street West between Deer Park Crescent and Yonge Street. 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