

Traffic Calming - Bisset Avenue, between Gair Drive and Westhead Road

Date: October 7, 2019
To: Etobicoke York Community Council
From: Acting Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services
Wards: Ward 3 – Etobicoke Lakeshore

SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter that Community Council has delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision.

Transportation Services staff reviewed the need for traffic calming on Bisset Avenue, between Gair Drive and Westhead Road. Study results indicate that motorists are exceeding the 40 km/h speed limit and that the criteria for the installation of speed humps are satisfied. Subject to positive results of the traffic calming poll, speed humps should be installed on Bisset Avenue, between Gair Drive and Westhead Road.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Acting Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. Etobicoke York Community Council request the City Clerk (Polling Registry Services) to poll eligible householders in English or any other language specified by Community Council, on Bisset Avenue, between Gair Drive and Westhead Road to determine whether residents support the installation of speed humps, in accordance with the City of Toronto Traffic Calming Policy.
2. Subject to favourable results of the poll:
 - a. Etobicoke York Community Council authorize the installation of traffic calming/speed humps on Bisset Avenue, between Gair Drive and Westhead Road.
 - b. Etobicoke York Community Council direct the City Solicitor prepare a by-law to alter the roadway on Bisset Avenue, between Gair Drive and Westhead Road, for traffic calming purposes, generally as shown on Drawing dated October 2019: EY19-082, entitled "Traffic Calming - Bisset Avenue, between Gair Drive and Westhead Road".

- c. Etobicoke York Community Council reduce the speed limit from 40 km/h to 30 km/h on Bisset Avenue, between Gair Drive and Westhead Road, when the speed humps are installed.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated cost for installing 6 speed humps on Bisset Avenue is \$24,000.00. This can be accommodated within funds allocated by City Council as part of the Transportation Capital Budget, subject to competing priorities and funding availability.

DECISION HISTORY

This report is a new request being presented to Etobicoke York Community Council.

COMMENTS

Transportation Services received a petition from the Ward Councillor, on behalf of area residents, to investigate the feasibility of installing physical traffic calming measures on Bisset Avenue, between Gair Drive and Westhead Road, to address concerns with speeding vehicles. Map of the area are Attachment 1.

Under the City of Toronto's road classification system, Bisset Avenue is classified as a local" road. Located in the residential community south of Evans Avenue and west of Brown's Line, Bisset Avenue operates two-way eastbound and westbound between Gair Drive and Westhead Road and has a posted speed limit of 40 km/h.

To quantify the need for traffic calming, automatic speed and volume counts were conducted for a period of 72 hours on Bisset Avenue, west of Savona Drive. The results of the speed studies are summarized in the following table:

Study Dates	Speed Ranges – Km/h						85th * Percentile
	1 – 40	41 – 50	51 – 60	61 – 65	> 65	24-Hour Total	
Tues. Dec. 4, 2018	274	552	202	14	2	1,044	53 km/h
Wed. Dec. 5, 2018	287	545	215	19	3	1,069	
Thurs. Dec. 6, 2018	254	564	196	11	2	1,027	

* The 85th percentile speed is the vehicle operating speed at or below which 85 percent of all traffic is moving.

We applied this data to the City of Toronto Traffic Calming Policy. According to the policy, the principle criteria for installing physical traffic calming are vehicle speed and traffic volume. Other factors, including road width, pedestrian facilities and gradient are also considered in the assessment. The proposal was evaluated under these technical criteria, with the results summarized in Attachment 2. Applying the study data to the Traffic Calming Warrants shows that Bisset Avenue satisfies the criteria for physical traffic calming.

The current City of Toronto Traffic Calming Policy requires that the City Clerk (Polling Registry Services) formally poll property owners/occupants who are directly affected by the installation of traffic calming measures. Under the policy, the City Clerk must receive a minimum response rate of 50 percent plus one ballot on each road, of which at least 60 percent of respondents must support installing speed humps in order to proceed with installation.

Subject to adoption of the recommendations in this report by Community Council, the City Clerk will poll property owners/occupants on Bisset Avenue, between Gair Drive and Westhead Road. Should the results support installing traffic calming measures, Transportation Services staff will schedule their installation based on relative need and competing priorities.

Consultation with emergency services (Police, Fire and Paramedic Services) is required to ensure that the design and layout of traffic calming proposal does not negatively affect their operations. At the time of writing this report, comments had not been received back from Toronto Police Service, Toronto Paramedic Services or Toronto Fire Services. Installing speed humps will result in slower operating speeds for all vehicles, including emergency service vehicles.

CONTACT

Joe Sousa
Engineering Technologist - Etobicoke York District
Tel: 416-394-8432
Fax: 416-394-8942
E-Mail: joe.sousa@toronto.ca
AFS28966

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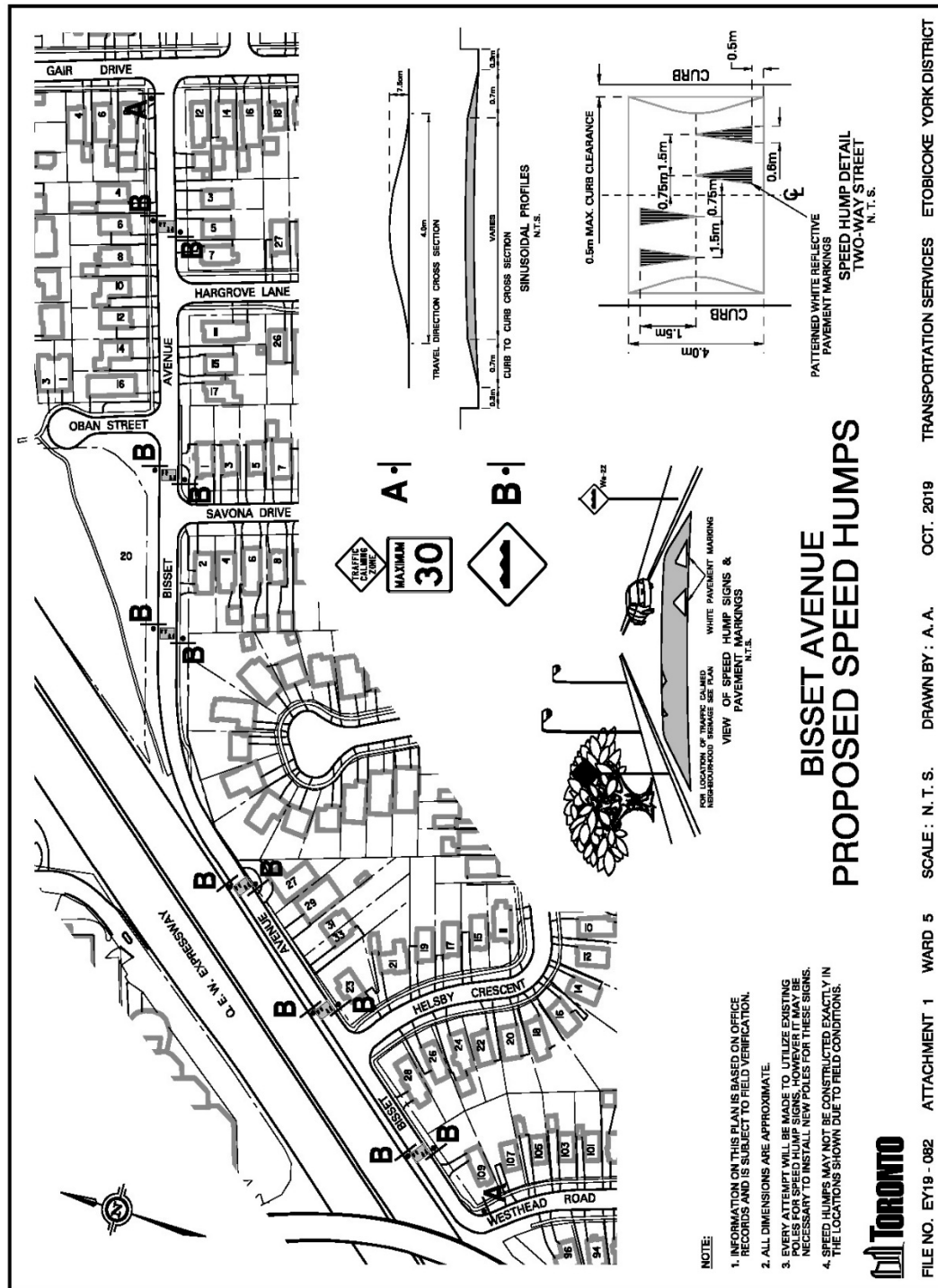
Roger Browne, M.A. Sc., P.Eng.
Acting Director, Traffic Management
Transportation Services

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Area Map 1 (Bisset Avenue)

Attachment 2: Traffic Calming Warrant - Bisset Avenue

Attachment 1: Area Map 1 (Bisset Avenue)



Attachment 2: Traffic Calming Warrant - Bisset Avenue

Warrant	Criterion	Requirement		Met	Not Met
Warrant 1 Petition	1.1 Petition	Petition signed by at least 25% of the households on the street		✓	
Impacts to adjacent streets		If significant impacts are expected on adjacent streets these streets should be included in the proposal		To be determine	
Warrant 2 Safety Criteria (all three criteria must be fulfilled to satisfy warrant)	2.1 Sidewalks	Continuous sidewalks on at least one side of street (both sides for collector or higher classification) OR On streets where no sidewalks exist, installation of sidewalks on at least one side must first be considered		✓	
	2.2 Road Grade	Traffic calming measures must not be installed at or near locations where road grade exceeds 8%		✓	
	2.3 Emergency Response	Impacts on Emergency Services will not be significant (to be determined in consultation with Fire Ambulance and Police)			To be determined
Warrant 3 Technical Requirements	3.1 Minimum Speed	The 85 th percentile speed must be a minimum of 10km/h over the warranted speed limit and the volume warrant of 3.2 must be fulfilled (3.2 not required if 85 th percentile > 15km/h over speed limit)		✓ 53 km/h (13 km/h above the speed limit)	
	3.2 Traffic Volumes	Local Roads Traffic volume must be between 1,000 and 8,000 vehicles per day	Collector Roads Traffic volumes must be between 2,500 and 8,000 vehicles per day	✓ Local Road 1027 - 1069 vpd	
	3.3 Minimum Block Length	On streets where mid-block traffic calming measures are proposed the minimum block length must exceed 120 metres		✓	
	3.4 Transit Service	Impacts on regularly scheduled Toronto Transit Service vehicles will not be significant (as determined in consultation with TTC staff)		✓	
Notes: 1) The review should be conducted from one intersecting collector street to another 2) Road classification as determined by the City's Road Classification System 3) Warranted speed limit is speed limit specified in the City of Toronto 40 km/h Speed Limit Warrant 4) Block length as measured from the centre to centre of controlled intersections (from either stop signs in the direction of travel or traffic control signals)					