

Speed Limit Reduction - Forthbridge Crescent and Chesham Drive

Date: August 15, 2019

To: North York Community Council

From: Acting Director, Transportation Services, Traffic Management

Wards: 6 - York Centre

SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter for which 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 requesting North York Community Council authorize a speed limit reduction from 50 km/h to 40 km/h on Forthbridge Crescent and Chesham Drive, as the warrants are satisfied.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Acting Director, Transportation Services, Traffic Management recommends that North York Community Council:

1. Reduce the speed limit from 50 km/h to 40 km/h on Forthbridge Crescent, between Calvington Drive and Heathrow Drive.
2. Reduce the speed limit from 50 km/h to 40 km/h on Chesham Drive, between Heathrow Drive and the west end of Chesham Drive.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

All costs associated with the signage changes required for the speed limit reduction on Forthbridge Crescent and Heathrow Drive can be accommodated within the Transportation Services 2019 Operating Budget.

DECISION HISTORY

This report addresses a new initiative.

COMMENTS

Transportation Services was requested by former Councillor Maria Augimeri, on behalf of area residents, to review the feasibility of reducing the speed limit from 50 km/h to 40 km/h on Forthbridge Crescent and Chesham Drive.

Forthbridge Crescent and Chesham Drive are both 8.5 metre wide, two-way local streets with a statutory (unsigned) 50 km/h speed limit. Forthbridge Crescent runs south from Calvington Drive, turns west, and then south again to become Chesham Drive at the intersection with Heathrow Drive. Chesham Drive continues south and curves west to a dead end at Heathrow Park. There are no sidewalks on either side of these streets. Tumpene Public School is located on the south side of Heathrow Drive, approximately 150 metres east of the intersection with Chesham Drive. Heathrow Drive is an 8.5 metre wide local street with a 40 km/h speed limit, between Chesham Drive and Tumpene Street. There is no TTC service on these roads.

A review of the Toronto Police Service collision records for the three-year period ending December 31, 2018 revealed that there were no reported collisions on Forthbridge Crescent or Chesham Drive.

City Council, at its meeting on July 30, 31 and August 1, 2002, approved a city wide policy regarding the implementation requirements for a 40 km/h speed limit. In order for a 40 km/h speed limit to be justified, the roadway must be less than 10.5 metres wide and one of the following criteria must be met:

- Elementary school adjacent to the road.
- Park that connects to a school.
- No sidewalks on either side of the road.
- Travelled road width less than 5.7 metres and sidewalk not separated from road by parking.
- 5%+ road grade or curves not safe at 50 km/h.
- Lack of stopping site distance at two or more locations when travelling 50 km/h.
- Three or more speed related collisions over three years.
- Long-term parking resulting in a travelled road width less than 5.7 metres.

The above criteria was applied to Forthbridge Crescent and Chesham Drive and it was revealed that a 40 km/h speed limit is justified on both streets because neither street has a sidewalk and both have curves that are not safe at 50 km/h.

A 40 km/h posted speed limit is recommended for the conditions on Forthbridge Crescent and Chesham Drive. The lowered speed limit will promote reduced travel

speeds and provide a safer environment for pedestrians and cyclists, which includes students destined to/from Tumpane Public School.

The "Vision Zero 2.0 - Road Safety Plan" report, as adopted by Council, recommended that all local residential roads be converted to 30 km/h but prioritized speed limit reductions on arterial and collector roads (i.e. 40 km/h and 50 km/h speed limits) as almost 90% of all killed and serious injury collisions take place on such roadways. Changing the speed limit of roadways is a labour intensive process, and resources will be put towards these higher priority road classifications first. As authority for changing speed limits on local roads is delegated to Community Council, the bylaws to reduce local roads to 30 km/h will be part of future reports to Community Council.

The actual installation of the signs and pavement markings on local roads will be a data driven process at a ward-by-ward basis taking place between 2021 and 2026. Investigating or implementing local road speed limits changes outside of this program would be less efficient and divert resources away from the program, extending the time it will take to implement city wide and increasing the total cost.

This particular recommendation for a 40 km/h speed limit predates the Vision Zero 2.0 report and Transportation Services staff did indicate to the Councillor/residents that we were going to reduce the speed limit to 40 km/h. As such, we can support the speed changes in this instance.

The Ward Councillor is aware of the recommendations in this staff report.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Map – Speed Limit Reduction - Forthbridge Crescent and Chesham Drive

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