

Traffic Calming (Speed Humps) - Wells Street

Date: June 5, 2019
To: Toronto and East York Community Council
From: Acting Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services
Wards: Ward 11, University - Rosedale

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 Wells Street, between Bathurst Street and Kendal Avenue, to address residents' concerns regarding the speed of vehicles. Our assessment indicates the criteria as set out in the Traffic Calming Policy has not been satisfied. Therefore, traffic calming should not be installed on Wells Street, between Bathurst Street and Kendal Avenue.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Toronto and East York Community Council not authorize the installation of traffic calming (speed humps) on Wells Street, between Bathurst Street and Kendal Avenue.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

DECISION HISTORY

This report addresses a new initiative.

COMMENTS

Transportation Services was requested by Councillor Mike Layton to report on the feasibility of installing traffic calming measures on Wells Street, between Bathurst Street and Kendal Avenue, to address residents' concerns regarding the speed of vehicles.

Wells Street, between Bathurst Street and Kendal Avenue, is a local road that operates as follows:

- two-way (eastbound and westbound), between Kendal Avenue and the west leg of Brunswick Avenue.
- one-way westbound, between the west leg of Brunswick Avenue and Bathurst Street.

This roadway has a posted regulatory speed limit of 30 km/h and an average daily traffic volume of about 1,866 vehicles. The pavement width on Wells Street is about 7 metres and there are sidewalks provided on both sides of the road. There is no TTC service provided on Wells Street.

Analysis

Transportation Services conducted mid-block speed and volume studies on Wells Street between April 2, 2019 and April 4, 2019.

The study findings were assessed against the City of Toronto's traffic calming policy and it was found that Wells Street, between Bathurst Street and Kendal Avenue, does not satisfy the installation criteria for traffic calming devices. It should be noted that the study is based on the warranted speed limit of 40 km/h.

The warrant was not met based on the following criteria:

- **Minimum Speed:** The operating speed (also known as the 85th percentile speed and the speed at which 85 percent of vehicles travel at, or below) of 36 km/h is less than the required minimum of 40 km/h over the warranted speed limit to satisfy the traffic calming installation criteria.

Therefore, the installation of traffic calming on Wells Street, between Bathurst Street and Kendal Avenue, is not warranted.

A review of Toronto Police Service collision records for the three-year period ending December 31, 2018 did not disclose any reported collisions on the subject section of Wells Street attributed to speeding.

Appendix A entitled "Table 1: Traffic Calming Warrant Criteria" outlines the results of our assessment for Wells Street, between Bathurst Street and Kendal Avenue.

Alternate Recommendations

If, despite the findings above, Toronto and East York Community Council recommends installing traffic calming on Wells Street, between Bathurst Street and Kendal Avenue, it may approve the following:

"That the Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Direct the Acting Director of Traffic Management, Transportation Services, request the City Clerk to poll eligible householders on Wells Street, between Bathurst Street and Kendal Avenue, 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:
 - (a) The installation of speed humps on Wells Street, between Bathurst Street and Kendal Avenue be authorized; and
 - (b) The City Solicitor be directed to prepare a by-law to alter the roadway on Wells Street, between Bathurst Street and Kendal Avenue, for traffic calming purposes, generally as shown on the copy of Drawing Nos. 421G-3417 dated May 2019, attached to the report entitled 'Traffic Calming (Speed Humps) – Wells Street' from the Acting Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services."

The estimated cost for installing five speed humps on Wells Street is \$20,000.00. The installation of speed humps on Wells Street would be subject to availability in Transportation Services 2020 Capital Funding estimates and competing priorities.

Conduct Poll

The City of Toronto's Traffic Calming Policy stipulates the option that residents who would be directly affected by installing speed humps on Wells Street, between Bathurst Street and Kendal Avenue, be formally polled. A minimum response of 50 percent plus one ballot is required (25 percent in Community Safety Zone), of which at least 60 percent of the respondents must support installing a speed hump in order to proceed with the installation. Should the Toronto and East York Community Council adopt the alternate recommendations outlined above, Transportation Services would request a poll of eligible residents on Wells Street, between Bathurst Street and Kendal Avenue. If the poll supports the speed humps, Transportation Services would schedule installation based on relative need, competing priorities and funding availability.

More recently, as part of a report presented at the Council meeting on May 22, 2018 entitled "Next Steps on Traffic Safety Measures", a motion was approved such that Community Councils also have the authority to waive petition and polling requirements for traffic calming measures. As such, this option is also available to Community Council.

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. Wells Street, between Bathurst Street and Kendal Avenue, scored 25 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 Service Comments

Consultation with emergency services (Toronto Police Services, Toronto Fire Services and Toronto Paramedic Services) is required to ensure that the design and layout of a traffic calming proposal does not unduly affect their operations. Comments have not yet been received from emergency services.

Councillor Mike Layton has been advised of the recommendation in this staff report.

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

1. Drawing No. 421G-3417, dated May 2019
2. Appendix A - Table 1: Traffic Calming Warrant Criteria –
Wells Street, between Bathurst Street and Kendal Avenue

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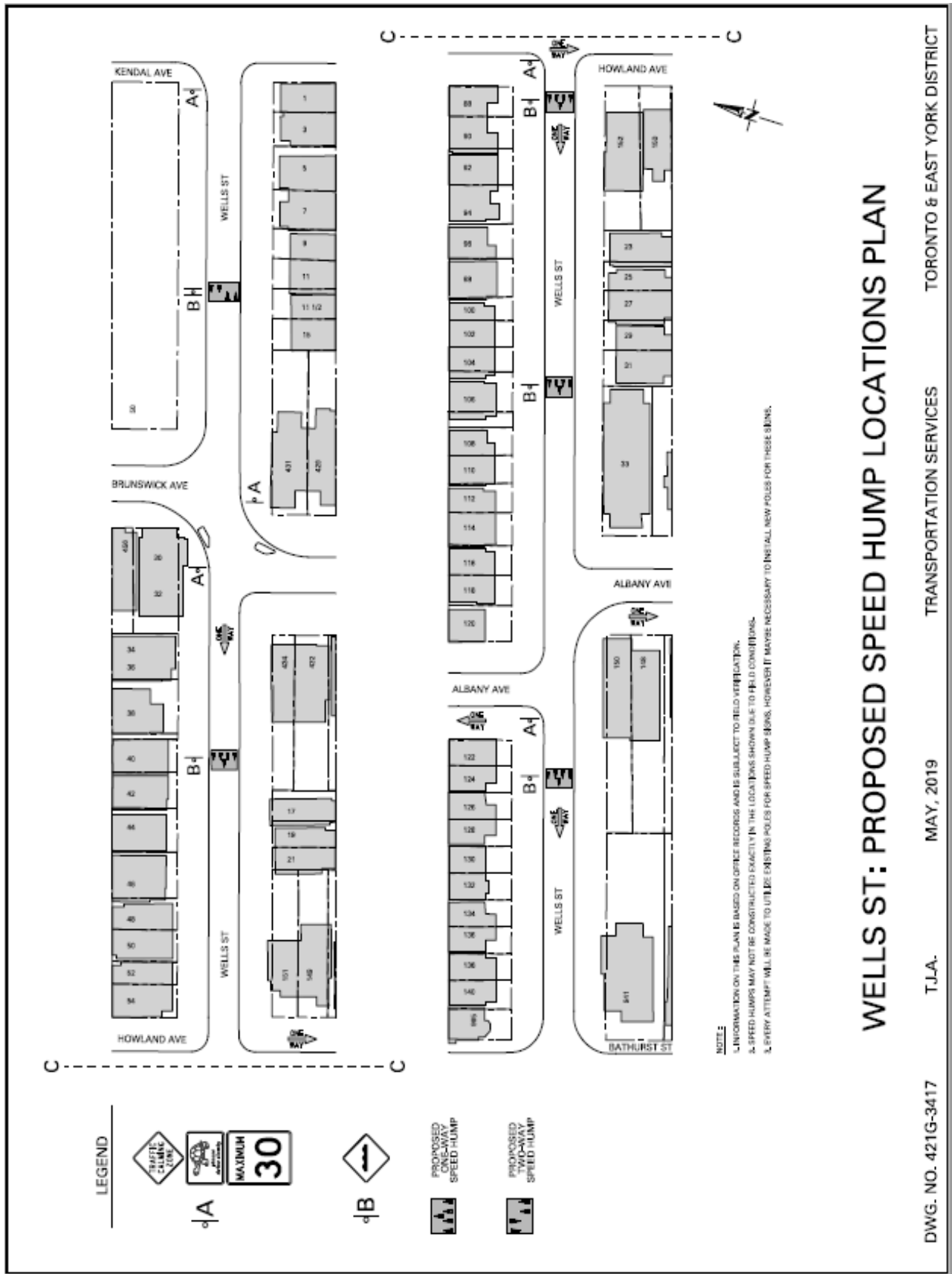


Table 1: Traffic Calming Warrant Criteria

Wells St between Bathurst St and Kendal Ave

Warrant	Criterion	Requirement	Met/Not Met
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 – Request to investigate by Councillor Mike Layton/Petition (SR#9442241)
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 (all three criteria must be fulfilled to satisfy this Warrant)	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 east and west sides of 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 Wells St 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 requested from Toronto Fire, Paramedic and Police Services
Warrant 3 Technical Requirements (all four criteria must be fulfilled to satisfy this warrant)	3.1 Minimum Speed	85 th 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 85 th 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 Wells St 85th percentile speeds of 36 km/h
	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
		Met – Local road with approximately 1886 vehicles total daily volume on Wells St between Bathurst St and Kendal Ave	
	3.3 Minimum Street Segment Length between stop controls	Street segment length must exceed 120 metres between stop controls (signals or stop signs)	
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 Wells St