

Speed Limit Reduction - Hesketh Court

Date: March 5, 2020
To: North York Community Council
From: Acting Director, Transportation Services, Traffic Management
Wards: Ward 16 - Don Valley East

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 Hesketh Court, as the warrants are satisfied.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. North York Community Council reduce the speed limit from 50 km/h to 40 km/h on Hesketh Court, between Sloane Avenue (north intersection) and Sloane Avenue (south intersection).

FINANCIAL IMPACT

All costs associated with the signage changes required for the speed limit reduction on Hesketh Court are available within the Transportation Services 2020 Operating Budget.

DECISION HISTORY

This report addresses a new initiative.

COMMENTS

Transportation Services was requested by Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong, on behalf of area residents, to review the feasibility of reducing the speed limit from 50 km/h to 40 km/h on Hesketh Court.

Hesketh Court is an 8.5 metre wide, two-way local street with a statutory (unsigned) 50 km/h speed limit that forms a crescent on the east side of Sloane Avenue, north of Eglinton Avenue East. There is no sidewalks on Hesketh Court. The surrounding land use is residential homes.

A review of the Toronto Police Service collision records for the three-year period ending December 31, 2019 revealed that there were no reported collisions on Hesketh Court.

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 Hesketh Court and it was revealed that a 40 km/h speed limit is justified because there is no sidewalk and there are curves that have a safe operating speed of less than 50 km/h.

The "Vision Zero 2.0 - Road Safety Plan" report, as adopted by Council, recommended that all local residential streets be converted to 30 km/h but prioritized speed limit reductions on arterial and collector streets (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 limit 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 staff recommendation for a 40 km/h speed limit, however, predates the above direction in the Vision Zero 2.0 report and Transportation Services staff did indicate to the Councillor that the speed limit would be reduced to 40 km/h. As such, staff can support the speed changes in this instance.

Therefore, a 40 km/h posted speed limit is recommended on Hesketh Court. The lowered speed limit will promote reduced travel speeds and provide a safer environment for pedestrians and cyclists.

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

CONTACT

Bruce Clayton, Manager, Traffic Operations
Traffic Management, Transportation Services
Tel: 416-394-8409, Fax: 416-394-8942
Email: Bruce.Clayton@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

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

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Map – Speed Limit Reduction - Hesketh Court

Attachment 1: Map – Speed Limit Reduction - Hesketh Court