

Traffic Calming (Speed Humps) - Alexander Street

Date: January 20, 2020
To: Toronto and East York Community Council
From: Acting Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services
Wards: Ward 13, Toronto Centre

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, specifically the installation of speed humps, on Alexander Street, between Yonge Street and Mutual Street, to address residents' concerns regarding vehicle speeds. Our assessment indicates the criteria as set out in the Traffic Calming Policy has not been satisfied on this roadway. Therefore, traffic calming should not be installed on the subject section of Alexander Street.

RECOMMENDATION

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 Alexander Street, between Yonge Street and Mutual Street.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

DECISION HISTORY

At its June 25, 2019 meeting, Toronto and East York Community Council adopted item TE7.118 <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.TE7.118> and, in so doing, requested Transportation Services to investigate the feasibility of installing traffic calming measures on Alexander Street, between Yonge Street and Mutual Street.

COMMENTS

Alexander Street, between Yonge Street and Church Street, is classified as a collector roadway and operates one-way eastbound. It has a pavement width of approximately 8.2 metres, a posted speed limit of 40 km/h, and sidewalks on both sides of the road. Alexander Street, between Church Street and Mutual Street, is classified as a local roadway and operates one-way eastbound. It has a pavement width of approximately 7.5 metres, a posted speed limit of 30 km/h and sidewalks on both sides of the road. There is no TTC service provided on Alexander Street.

Transportation Services conducted a mid-block speed and volume study on Alexander Street over a three-day mid-week period in October 2019. The study found the vehicular operating speed to be 37 km/h and the average daily traffic volume to be approximately 700 vehicles. The operating speed, also known as the 85th percentile speed, is the speed at which 85 percent of vehicles travel at or below. The study findings were assessed against the City of Toronto's Traffic Calming Policy and it was found that Alexander Street does not satisfy the installation criteria for traffic calming devices with respect to the operating speed. The operating speed must be at least 10 km/h over a warranted 40 km/h speed limit. Also, the daily traffic volume must be greater than 2,500 vehicles from Yonge Street to Church Street and 1,000 vehicles from Church Street to Mutual Street.

A review of Toronto Police Service collision records for a three-year period ending October 31, 2019 did not disclose any reported collisions on the subject section of Alexander Street attributed to speeding.

In view of the above, the installation of traffic calming devices on Alexander Street, between Yonge Street and Mutual Street, is not supported. The attached Appendices A and B entitled "Table 1: Traffic Calming Warrant Criteria - Alexander Street, between Yonge Street and Church Street" and "Table 2: Traffic Calming Warrant Criteria - Alexander Street", between Church Street and Mutual Street" outlines the results of our assessment.

Alternate Recommendations

If, despite the findings above, Toronto and East York Community Council determines that installing speed humps on Alexander Street, between Yonge Street and Mutual Street, would be beneficial, it may approve the following:

"That the Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Direct the Acting Director of Traffic Management, Transportation Services, to request the City Clerk to poll eligible householders on Alexander Street, between Yonge Street and Mutual Street, 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) Authorize the installation of speed humps on Alexander Street, between Yonge Street and Mutual Street,
 - (b) Direct the City Solicitor to prepare a by-law to alter sections of the roadway on Alexander Street, between Yonge Street and Mutual Street, for traffic calming purposes, generally as shown on the copy of 'Drawing No. 421G-3645', dated January 2020, attached to the report entitled 'Traffic Calming (Speed Humps) - Alexander Street' from the Acting Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services, and
 - (c) Reduce the speed limit to 30 km/h on Alexander Street, between Yonge Street and Church Street, in conjunction with the installation of speed humps.

The estimated cost for installing four speed humps on the subject section of Alexander Street is \$16,000.00. Installation would be subject to availability in Transportation Services' 2020 Capital Funding and competing priorities.

Conduct Poll

The City of Toronto Traffic Calming Policy stipulates residents who would be directly affected by installing speed humps must be formally polled. A minimum response of 50 percent plus one ballot is required (25 percent in Community Safety Zones), of which at least 60 percent of the respondents must support installing speed humps in order to proceed with the installation. This section of Alexander Street is not designated as a Community Safety Zone. Should Toronto and East York Community Council approve the alternate recommendations outlined above, Transportation Services would request a poll of eligible residents on Alexander Street, between Yonge Street and Mutual Street.

If the poll supports the installation of speed humps, Transportation Services would schedule installation based on relative need, competing priorities and funding availability.

City Council, at its meeting held on May 22, 23 and 24, 2018 adopted, as amended, Public Works and Environment Committee Item PW29.6 entitled "Next Steps on Traffic Safety Measures" and, in so doing, delegated to community councils 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. Alexander Street, between Yonge Street and Church Street scored 11 ranking points, and between Church Street and Mutual Street scored 0 ranking points, out of a possible 100.

No alterations to parking regulations would be required, nor would the number of parking spaces be affected by the installation of speed humps. Installation of speed humps would have minimal effect on winter services, street cleaning and garbage collection, but it 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 Services Comments

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

Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam has been advised of the recommendation of this staff report.

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SIGNATURE

Roger Browne, M.A.Sc., P.Eng.,
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ATTACHMENTS

1. Drawing No. 421G-3645, dated January 2020
2. Appendix A - Table 1: Traffic Calming Warrant Criteria - Alexander Street, between Yonge Street and Church Street
3. Appendix B - Table 2: Traffic Calming Warrant Criteria - Alexander Street, between Church Street and Mutual Street

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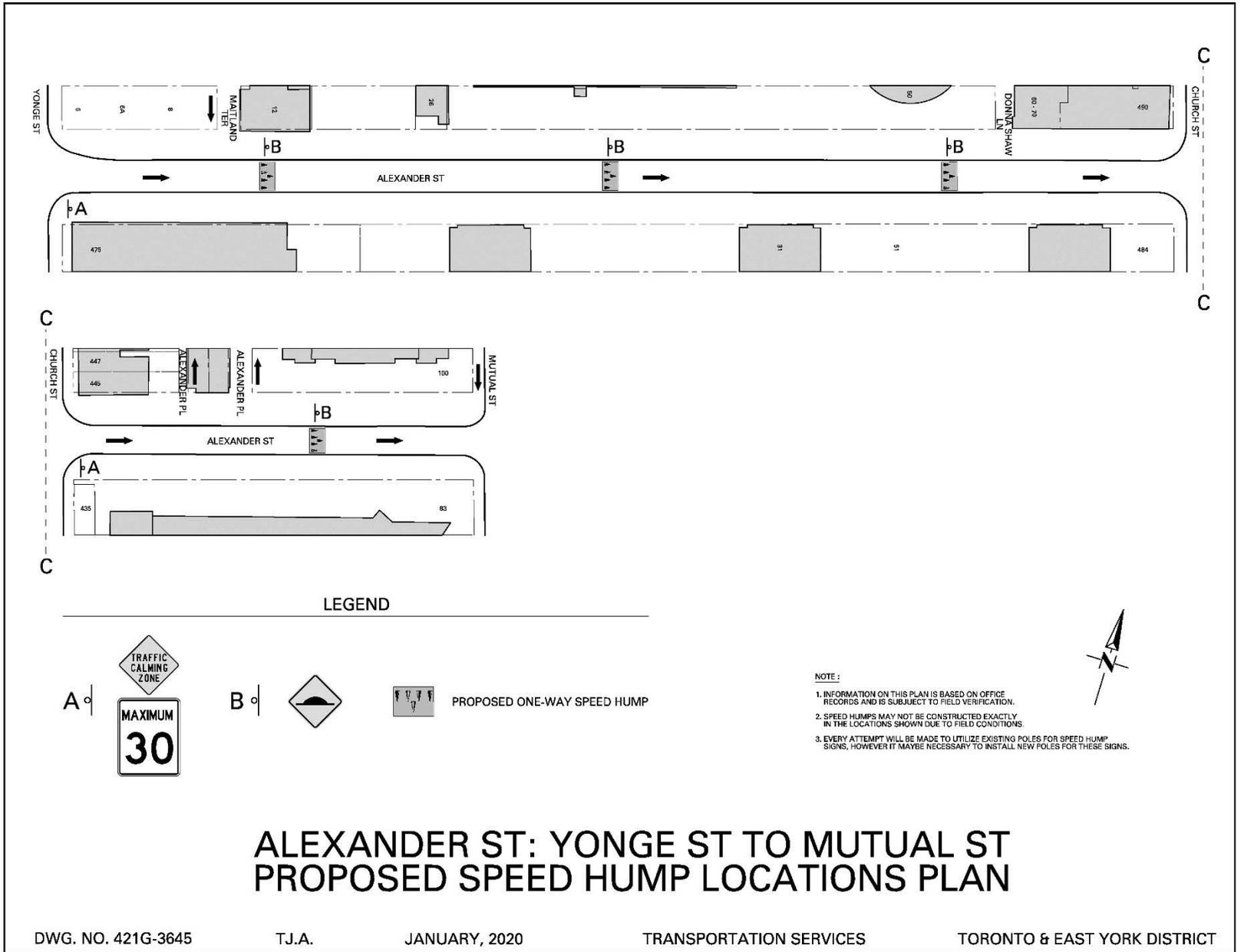


Table 1: Traffic Calming Warrant Criteria

Alexander Street, between Yonge Street and Church Street

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 – Direct request received from June 25, 2019 TEYCC (TE7.118)
	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 is sidewalk present on both sides of the 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 Alexander Street, between Yonge Street and Church Street, 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 have been requested
Warrant 3 Technical Requirements (all four criteria must be fulfilled to satisfy this warrant)	3.1 Minimum Speed	85 th %ile 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 %ile 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 Alexander Street, between Yonge Street and Church Street, show 85 th percentile speeds of 37 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
	3.3 Minimum Street Segment Length between stop controls	Street segment length must exceed 120 meters between stop controls (signals or stop signs)	Met – Alexander Street, between Yonge Street and Church Street, is about 300 metres in length
	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 Alexander Street

Table 2: Traffic Calming Warrant Criteria

Alexander Street, between Church Street and Mutual Street

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 – Direct request received from June 25, 2019 TEYCC (TE7.118)
	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 is sidewalk present on both sides of the 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 Alexander Street, between Church Street and Mutual Street, 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 have been requested
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	3.3 Minimum Street Segment Length between stop controls	Street segment length must exceed 120 meters between stop controls (signals or stop signs)	Not Met – Alexander Street, between Church Street and Mutual Street, is about 110 metres in length
	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 Alexander Street