

Speed Limit Amendment - Yonge Street, between Sheppard Avenue East/West and Finch Avenue East/West

Date: April 29, 2021
To: North York Community Council
From: Acting Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services
Wards: Ward 18 - Willowdale

SUMMARY

As the subject location is classified as a major arterial road, City Council approval of this report is required.

Transportation Services is recommending a reduction of the 50 km/h speed limit to a 40 km/h speed limit on Yonge Street, between Sheppard Avenue East/West and Finch Avenue East/West in conjunction with the duration of the Café TO program. The proposed speed limit reduction within the Café TO area will provide a means of enforcement while promoting reduced travel speed and provide a safer environment for all road users.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council reduce the speed limit from 50 km/h to 40 km/h on Yonge Street, between Sheppard Avenue East/West and Finch Avenue East/West.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The signage costs associated with the proposed amendments are approximately \$3,000. Funding is available within the Transportation Services 2021 Operating Budget.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on April 29, 2021, the Executive Committee adopted Item EX23.8 (entitled "Café TO - Update") to provide assistance to Toronto's restaurant and bar operators wishing to install cafés on City sidewalks and streets through a streamlined application process including waived fees, the provision of traffic safety plans and equipment for cafés in the curb lane and other city supports. The report is provided in the following link:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.EX23.8>

COMMENTS

Transportation Services was requested by the Ward Councillor to investigate the feasibility of reducing the speed limit on Yonge Street, between Sheppard Avenue East/West and Finch Avenue East/West. The speed limit reduction would be in conjunction with the Café TO program that will be accommodating café's, parklets and short term on-street parking areas in the curb lanes on Yonge Street.

Existing Conditions

Yonge Street, between Sheppard Avenue East/West and Finch Avenue East/West is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is a six-lane, north-south, major arterial roadway
- It operates two-way traffic on a pavement width of approximately 24 metres with centre median in sections
- The daily two-way traffic volume is approximately 50,000 vehicles
- The regulatory speed limit is 50 km/h
- Heavy trucks are permitted at all times
- There is TTC service provided by the 97F Bus Route
- There are sidewalks located on both sides of the street

The segment of Yonge Street, between Sheppard Avenue East/West and Finch Avenue East/West will be facilitating the CafeTO Program between the months of May to November. Although advisory 40 km/h speed limits are being proposed as part of the traffic set up, as per the Ontario Traffic Manual, Book 7 at these CafeTO locations, in order to address this unique request on a six lane major arterial road being reduced to four lanes to accommodate the curb lane occupation, Transportation Services feels it would be appropriate to reduce the speed limit to 40 km/h. This regulatory reduction will allow a means of enforcement, if necessary, while also promoting reduced travel speed and additional comfort and safety of those utilizing the café's, parklets and short-term parking on Yonge Street. As the CafeTO installations are temporary, the street will be reviewed later this year to determine the appropriate speed limit taking into consideration the future conditions on this section of road.

A map of the area is included in Attachment 1.

The Ward Councillor has been advised of the recommendation in this report.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Map - Speed Limit Amendment - Yonge Street, between Sheppard Avenue East/West and Finch Avenue East/West

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