

## **Safety Improvements and Sound Mitigation on Highway 2A**

**Date:** June 4, 2021

**To:** Scarborough Community Council

**From:** Director, Planning and Capital Program, Transportation Services

**Wards:** Ward 25 - Scarborough-Rouge Park

### **SUMMARY**

---

At its meeting on April 23, 2021, Scarborough Community Council requested Transportation Services to report back on safety improvements and sound mitigation along Highway 2A. This report provides a summary of existing noise barrier installations, the status of noise studies, and plans for future sound mitigation infrastructure along Highway 2A.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

---

The Director, Planning and Capital Program, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. Scarborough Community Council receive this report for information

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

---

All costs associated with the design of sound mitigation infrastructure are included in the Transportation Services 10-Year Capital Plan and Budget. Future costs associated with construction and delivery will be determined through the design process and considered for inclusion into the 10-Year Capital Plan and Budget.

### **DECISION HISTORY**

---

On April 23, 2021, Scarborough Community Council adopted item SC23.21 (Safety Improvements and Sound Mitigation on Highway 2A) and requested Transportation Services to report back in June 2021 regarding the location of existing noise barriers on the Highway 2A corridor, the status and scope of current and future noise studies,

Safety Improvements and Sound Mitigation on Highway 2A

timelines, and recommendations for sound barrier infrastructure, and recommendations for additional noise studies and additional infrastructure to mitigate noise impacts. Transportation Services was also requested to report on the status of planned street light infrastructure in the Highway 2A corridor. The Scarborough Community Council decision can be found at:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.SC23.31>

## COMMENTS

---

Existing sound barrier infrastructure along Highway 2A consists of a concrete sound wall located behind townhome addresses 54 through 90 on Stagecoach Circle. This concrete sound wall is approximately 200 meters in length with a minimum height of approximately 3-4 meters. Wooden fence structures are present along various sections of Highway 2A located along property lines, many with missing sections and exhibiting signs of weathering.

In 2019, Transportation Services commissioned the "Highway 2A Noise Assessment - Tanis Study Area" study, conducted by the engineering consulting firm GHD. The study was performed using the Ontario Ministry of Transportation's (MTO) guidelines and the City of Toronto's work requirements using existing traffic counts (2019) and traffic forecasts up to 2029. The findings of the study recommended the extension of the existing concrete sound barrier wall approximately 540 meters west to the Highway 2A off ramp accessing the Highland Creek Overpass, at a minimum height of 2.6 meters and a maximum height of 5 meters. The study also recommended a new installation of sound barrier infrastructure on the south side of Highway 2A in the area generally between the St. Dunstan of Canterbury Church and a point just east of the Courtland Mews Co-op at a length of approximately 615 meters and at a height between 2.6 meters and 5 meters.

Through consultation with the Ward Councillor, Transportation Services has been made aware of noise concerns that extend beyond the boundaries of the 2019 noise study. As the 2019 study has identified the need for noise barriers in the areas described above, similar needs for residents upstream of this area can be safely assumed when considering the extension of sound barrier infrastructure further east along both sides of Highway 2A to the area near Newmains Court. Extending sound barrier infrastructure beyond this point risks conflict with MTO infrastructure accessing the Highway 401 interchange.

Installing new sound barrier infrastructure west of the Highland Creek overpass is not recommended at this time given the complex roadway geometry and the bridge structure west of Military Trail. The study of noise impacts is not recommended at this time as reduced traffic demand resulting from Provincial directives for reducing mobility to help curb the spread of COVID-19 would significantly impact the findings.

Transportation Services is in the process of retaining consultant services to ultimately deliver, where feasible, continuous sound barrier infrastructure on both sides of

Highway 2A generally between the Highland Creek overpass and Newmains Court. The details of the design exercise are as follows:

- Provide design direction regarding desired height of sound barrier infrastructure (2.6 meters versus 5 meters);
- Provide design direction regarding placement of sound barrier infrastructure (property line barrier versus highway barrier);
- Arborist Report to determine impacts on trees by placement of sound barrier infrastructure;
- Identification of utility locations (if any) and ongoing coordination with Toronto Hydro regarding lighting along Highway 2A;
- Periodic consultation with the Councillor and other stakeholders;
- Development of construction costs estimates; and,
- Tender for construction and delivery.

The design exercise will be initiated once consulting services are retained, which is anticipated to be completed by Q3 2021. The design process and arborist report is anticipated to take between 6-9 months to complete, and public consultation is anticipated to occur during 2022. Over the next year, Transportation Services will work with the Councillor to facilitate the inclusion of sound barrier infrastructure delivery into the Division's 10-Year Capital Plan and Budget. Construction timelines will be identified in a future budget submission.

Staff are liaising with Toronto Hydro on the street lighting update request and will update the Ward Councillor directly.

## **CONTACT**

---

Matthew Davis, Manager, Capital Projects & Program, Transportation Services, 416-397-7507, [matthew.davis@toronto.ca](mailto:matthew.davis@toronto.ca)

## **SIGNATURE**

---

Ashley Curtis  
Director, Planning & Capital Program  
Transportation Services