

## Traffic Calming Poll Results - Rains Avenue

**Date:** June 15, 2021

**To:** Toronto and East York Community Council

**From:** Acting Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services

**Wards:** Ward 12, Toronto - St. Paul's

### **SUMMARY**

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This staff report is about a matter that Community Council has delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision.

Transportation Services is reporting on the results of the traffic calming poll undertaken on Rains Avenue, between Davenport Road and Melita Avenue. Polling ballots were mailed to the affected residents to determine the level of support in the community for the proposed installation of speed humps. The poll provided a response rate of less than the 50 percent plus one ballot required by the Traffic Calming Policy needed to confirm that there is a favourable consensus in the community to install speed humps on Rains Avenue. Therefore, staff do not recommend the installation of speed humps on Rains Avenue.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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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 Rains Avenue, between Davenport Road and Melita Avenue.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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There are no financial impacts resulting from the adoption of the recommendation in this report.

If Toronto and East York Community Council amends the recommendation in this report and authorizes the installation of speed humps on Rains Avenue, the estimated cost of installing two speed humps is about \$ 8,000. Funding would be subject to availability and competing priorities within the Transportation Services 2021 Capital Budget.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

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At its meeting on January 12, 2021, Toronto and East York Community Council adopted, as amended, Item TE22.23 and, in so doing, approved the installation of speed humps on Rains Avenue, between Davenport Road and Melita Avenue, subject to a favourable poll of residents. The Council decision can be found at:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.TE22.23>

## **COMMENTS**

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The Ward Councillor has requested Transportation Services to report on the results of the poll undertaken in April 2021 and May 2021, regarding the installation of speed humps on Rains Avenue, between Davenport Road and Melita Avenue. The Traffic Calming Policy adopted by City Council requires that staff undertake a poll of eligible voters on streets being considered for traffic calming and consult with Emergency Services. The poll will be considered in favour of traffic calming if it satisfies the following requirements:

- A response rate of 50 percent plus one
- A response rate of 25 percent if the subject street is within a Community Safety Zone or a School Speed Zone
- A support rate of at least 60 percent of the valid responses

Rains Avenue does not fall within the Community Safety Zone, therefore, the 50 percent plus one response rate is considered.

### **Poll Results**

The City Clerk received back 42 out of the 85 ballots that were received by voters. This is a response rate of 49 percent, which is less than the required minimum of 50 percent plus one. Of the 42 ballots received back, Table 1 summarizes the level of support for the installation of speed humps.

Table 1: Poll Results - Support for Speed Humps on Rains Avenue

<b>Response Type</b>	<b>Number of ballots</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
In Favour	37	88%
Opposed	5	12%
Spoiled/blank Ballot	0	0%

The poll is deemed to be a negative poll as the response rate was 49 percent which is less than the required minimum of 50 percent plus one.

### **Alternate Recommendations**

If, despite the findings above, Toronto and East York Community Council decides to proceed with installing speed humps on Rains Avenue, between Davenport Road and Melita Avenue, it may approve the following as to form:

"That the Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Authorize the installation of traffic calming (speed humps) on Rains Avenue, between Davenport Road and Melita Avenue, despite poll results that did not satisfy the polling criteria for the installation of speed humps pursuant to the City's Traffic Calming Policy.
2. Direct the City Solicitor to prepare a by-law to alter the roadway to install two speed humps on Rains Avenue, between Davenport Road and Melita Avenue, generally as shown on Attachment 1, Drawing No 421G - 3820, dated January 2021, attached to the report entitled "Traffic Calming Poll Results - Rains Avenue " from the Acting Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services."

### **Emergency Services Comments**

Consultation with emergency services (Toronto Police Service, 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. Emergency services were advised of this proposal.

Toronto Fire Services responded and advised they do not support the installation of speed humps as it may negatively impact their service delivery. A copy of their full response is included in Attachment 2. Toronto Paramedic Services and Toronto Police Service have not provided comments back at the time of writing this report. Installing speed humps will result in slower operating speeds for all vehicles, including emergency service vehicles.

## **Notification of Residents**

As per the Polling Policy, residents of Rains Avenue have been notified in writing by the City Clerk that the speed hump poll on this street did not satisfy the required criteria and that any follow-up poll cannot be conducted for a period of two years. Residents have not been told specifically that speed humps will not be installed and have been advised that Toronto and East York Community Council has the final decision on the matter. However, they might interpret the failure of the poll as the final decision on this matter.

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

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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

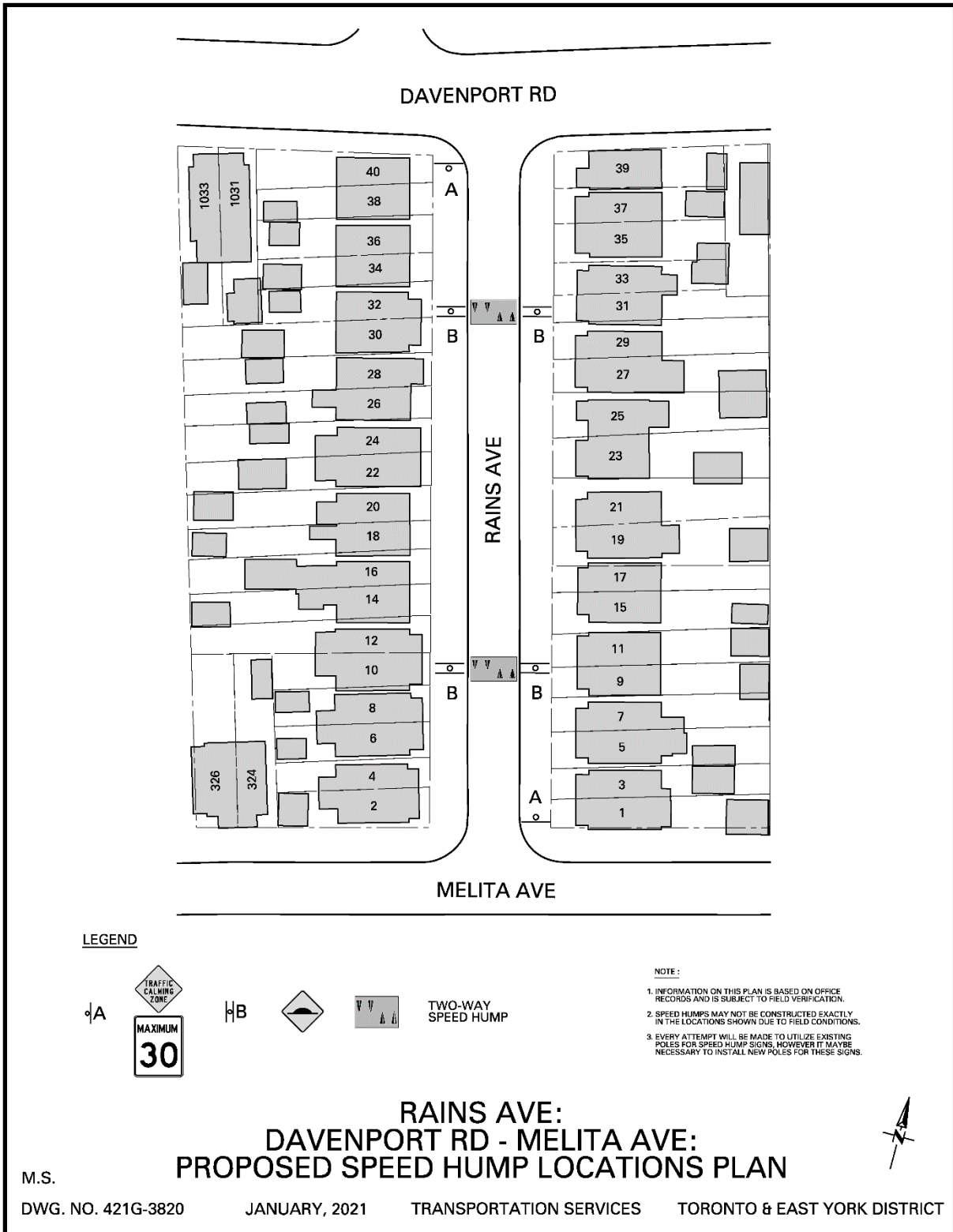
## **ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment 1: Map - Rains Avenue: Davenport Road - Melita Avenue: Proposed Speed Hump Locations Plan

Attachment 2: Letter from Toronto Fire Services, dated September 15, 2020

Attachment 1: Map - Rains Avenue: Davenport Road - Melita Avenue: Proposed Speed Hump Locations Plan



Attachment 2: Letter from Toronto Fire Services, dated September 15, 2020



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September 15, 2020

Shirendra Giri  
Transportation Technologist  
Transportation Services

**RE: Rains Avenue, between Davenport Rd and Melita Av - Evaluation for installation of traffic calming devices.**

I am in receipt of the proposal for installation of traffic calming measures (speed humps) on Melita Avenue and provide the following comments.

Fire Services is not in support of this proposed speed hump installation as it may negatively impact delivery of service. The physical restriction imposed by a speed hump have a much greater impact on large fire vehicles. Response time increase with every obstacle encountered on route to any emergency incident and the cumulative impact of several speed hump can be a significant amount of time. It was also noted in the study information provided that the recorded daily traffic volumes was low.

It is important that the all individuals directly affected by any installation be made fully aware of the potential negative effects of any calming device. Careful consideration must be given to accepting a delay to emergency response vehicles as a compromise to combat the risks presented by all vehicular traffic.

Regards,

Terry Bruining  
Toronto Fire Services  
Emergency Planning