

Traffic Calming - Stella Street

Date: May 13, 2022
To: Etobicoke York Community Council
From: Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services
Wards: Ward 5 – York South-Weston

SUMMARY

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

Transportation Services has reviewed the need for traffic calming (speed humps) on Stella Street, between Rustic Road and Maple Leaf Drive. The assessment indicates the warrant criteria as set out in the City of Toronto's Traffic Calming Policy has not been satisfied. Therefore, staff do not recommend the installation of speed humps on Stella Street.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. Etobicoke York Community Council not authorize the installation of traffic calming (speed humps) on Stella Street, between Rustic Road and Maple Leaf Drive.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

If Etobicoke York Community Council amends the recommendation in this report and authorizes the installation of speed humps on Stella Street, the estimated cost of installing four speed humps is \$16,000. Funding would be subject to availability and competing priorities within the Transportation Services 2023 Capital Budget.

DECISION HISTORY

This report addresses a new initiative.

COMMENTS

Transportation Services received a petition from the Ward Councillor, on behalf of area residents, to investigate the feasibility of installing physical traffic calming measures on Stella Street, between Rustic Road and Maple Leaf Drive, to address concerns with speeding vehicles.

Existing Conditions

Stella Street is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is a two-lane, north-south, local roadway
- It operates two-way traffic on a pavement width of approximately 8.5 metres
- The daily two-way traffic volume is approximately 1,047 vehicles
- The speed limit is 40 km/h
- Heavy trucks are prohibited at all times
- There is no TTC service provided
- There are sidewalks provided on both sides of the street from Rustic Road to Alladin Avenue and no sidewalks on Stella Street from Alladin Avenue to Maple Leaf Drive

The land use in the area consists of detached and semi-detached residential. This subject section of Stella Street is not within a designated community safety zone.

A map of the area and locations of the requested speed humps is included in Attachment 2.

Study Results

In order for speed humps to be recommended on a street, the criteria as set out in the City of Toronto's Traffic Calming Policy must be satisfied. The warrant criteria includes factors such as vehicle speed and volume, road widths, pedestrian facilities and gradient. Details of the warrant criteria are included in Attachment 1.

As part of the assessment of the warrant criteria, a vehicle speed and volume study was conducted on Stella Street, between Rustic Road and Maple Leaf Drive on October 12, 2021.

Based on the study results, the overall warrant for traffic calming was not met for the following reasons:

- Minimum speed: The operating speed, which is the speed at which 85 percent of traffic is travelling at or below, was observed at 45 km/h. In order for speed humps to be technically warranted the operating speed must be a minimum of 10 km/h over the warranted speed limit. The operating speed of 45 km/h is 5 km/h over the warranted speed of 40 km/h and less than the required 10 km/h minimum.

- Sidewalks: Continuous sidewalks are provided on both sides of Stella Street from Rustic Road to Alladin Avenue however, sidewalks are absent on both sides of Stella Street from Alladin Avenue to Maple Leaf Drive.

The overall investigation concluded that the warrant criteria as outlined in the Traffic Calming Policy has not been satisfied. Therefore, staff do not recommend the installation of speed humps on Stella Street.

Alternate Recommendations

If, despite the findings above, Etobicoke York Community Council decides to proceed with installing speed humps on Stella Street, between Rustic Road and Maple Leaf Drive, it may approve the following:

"That the Etobicoke York Community Council:

1. Direct the Director of Traffic Management, Transportation Services, to request the City Clerk to poll eligible householders on Stella Street, between Rustic Road and Maple Leaf Drive, 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 traffic calming (speed humps) on Stella Street, between Rustic Road and Alladin Avenue.
 - b. authorize the installation of traffic calming (speed humps) on Stella Street, between Alladin Avenue and Maple Leaf Drive.
 - c.. direct the City Solicitor to prepare a by-law to alter sections of the roadway to install four speed humps on Stella Street, between Rustic Road and Maple Leaf Drive, for traffic calming purposes, generally as shown on ATTACHMENT 2, dated April 2022, attached to the report entitled "Traffic Calming - Stella Street" from the Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services."

The estimated cost for installing four speed humps on Stella Street is \$16,000. The installation of speed humps on Stella Street would be subject to availability in Transportation Services 2023 Capital Budget and competing priorities.

Polling Requirement

The City of Toronto Traffic Calming Policy requires that the City Clerk (Polling Registry Services) formally poll property owners/occupants who are directly affected by the installation of traffic calming measures. Under the policy, 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

Subject to approval by Community Council of the alternate recommendations in this report, the City Clerk will poll property owners/occupants. Should the results support installing traffic calming measures on Stella Street, between Rustic Road and Maple Leaf Drive, Transportation Services staff will schedule installation based on relative need and competing priorities.

Relative Priority and Other Impacts

Relative need and priority of speed humps installation is based on a technical assessment of traffic volume, vehicle speed percentages, speed-related collisions, and the presence of schools, parks, seniors' residences and bicycle routes. Stella Street, between Rustic Road and Maple Leaf Drive, scored 10.47 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.

Consultation with emergency services (Toronto Police Services, 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 3. 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.

Comments have not been received back at the time of writing this report from Toronto Police Service, and Toronto Paramedic Services. Installing speed humps will result in slower operating speeds for all vehicles, including emergency service vehicles.

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.
Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services

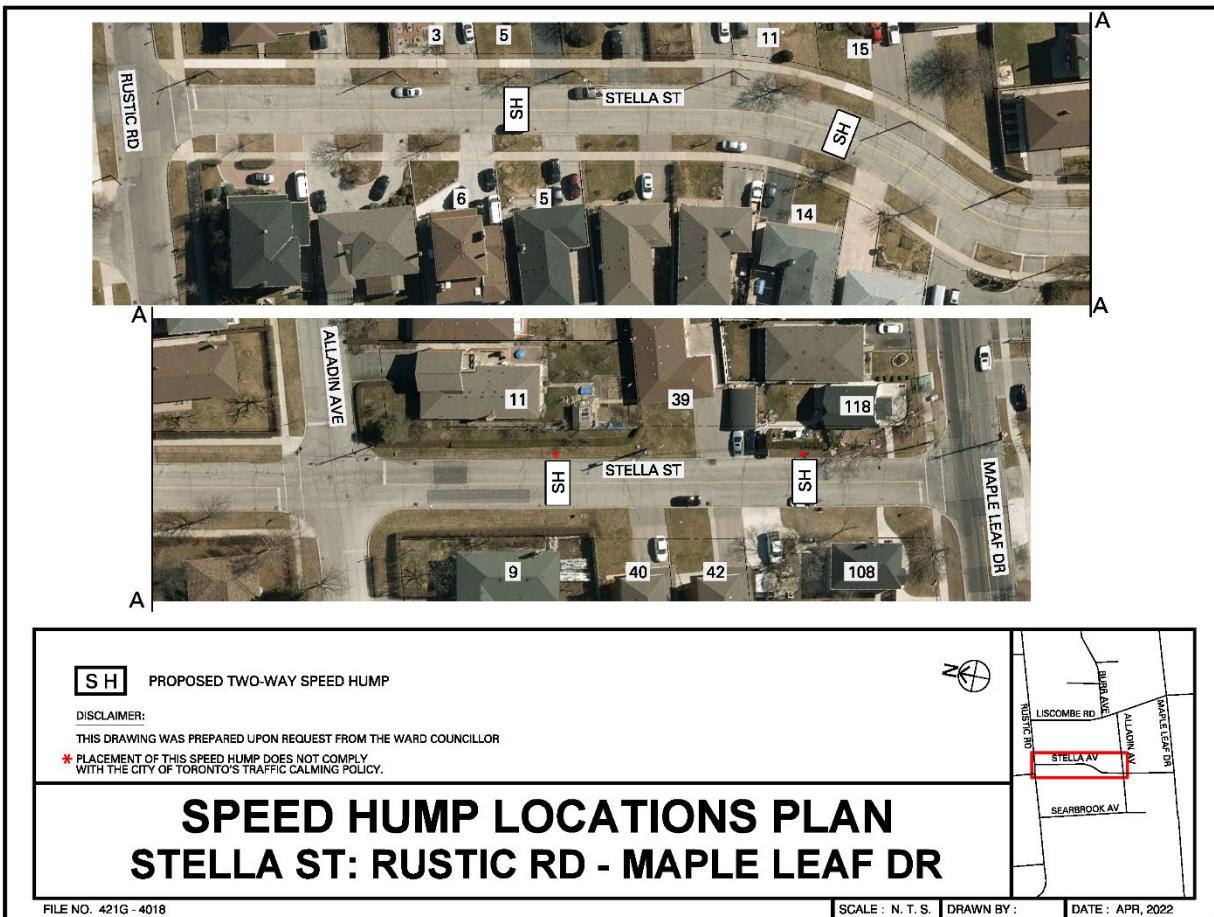
ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Traffic Calming Warrant - Stella Street
Attachment 2: Speed Hump Locations Plan - Stella Street
Attachment 3: Letter from Toronto Fire Services, dated March 30, 2022

Attachment 1: Traffic Calming Warrant - Stella Street

Warrant Criteria	Requirement	Warrant Satisfied?
Petition	Petition signed by at least 25% of the households on the street and/or 10% multiple family rental dwellings OR A direct request from the Ward Councillor	Yes
Impacts to Adjacent Streets	No significant traffic impacts on adjacent streets	Yes
Sidewalks	Are there continuous sidewalks on at least one side of street (both sides for collector of higher classification) OR On streets where no sidewalks exist, installation of sidewalks on at least one side must first be considered	No (between Alladin Ave and Maple Leaf Dr)
Road Grade	Road grade 5% or less OR between 5% and 8% road grade may be considered. Investigation must determine installation to be safe.	Yes
Emergency Response	Emergency Services have noted that the impact of traffic calming, specifically speed humps, will not significantly affect service delivery	No
Minimum Speed	The 85th percentile speed must be a minimum of 10 km/h over the warranted speed limit and the traffic volume warrant must be satisfied OR On streets where the 85th percentile speed exceeds the warranted speed limit by a minimum of 15 km/h, there is no minimum traffic volume required	No (5 km/h over)
Traffic Volumes	Local road traffic volume must be between 1,000 and 8,000 vehicles per day OR Collector road traffic volume must be between 2,500 and 8,000 vehicles per day	Yes (1047 vpd)
Minimum Block Length	On streets where mid-block traffic calming measures are proposed, the minimum block length must exceed 120 metres	Yes
Transit Service	No significant impacts on regularly scheduled Toronto Transit Service vehicles (as determined in consultation with TTC staff)	N/A

Attachment 2: Speed Hump Location Plan - Stella Street



Attachment 3: Letter from Toronto Fire Services, dated March 30, 2022



Tracey Cook
Deputy City Manager

Emergency Management

Fire Services
75 Toryork Drive
Toronto, Ontario

Tel: 416-338-9510

March 30, 2022

Ahmed Muse
Engineering Technologist Technician
Traffic Operations
Transportation Services
Etobicoke York District

RE: Stella Street, between Rustic Road and Maple Leaf Drive - Evaluation for installation of traffic calming devices.

We are in receipt of and have reviewed the proposal for installation of traffic calming measures (speed humps) on Stella Street (Rustic to Maple Leaf) and provide the following comments.

Fire Services does not support the proposed speed hump installation as it may negatively impact service delivery. 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. Additionally as indicated in the review documents circulated all warrant criteria (Traffic Calming Policy) has not be satisfied.

Fire Services is supportive of initiatives that improve safety for all citizens of and visitors to the city of Toronto. However, 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. Our recommendation is that non-physical measures be considered and evaluated to determine if desired results can be obtained without imposing a physical obstacle to emergency vehicles.

Regards,

Terry Bruining
Emergency Management
Toronto Fire Services