

## **Traffic Calming Poll Results - Earlington Avenue**

**Date:** August 30, 2023

**To:** Etobicoke York Community Council

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

**Wards:** Ward 3- Etobicoke-Lakeshore

### **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 Earlington Avenue, between Dundas Street West and Government Road. 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 results of the traffic calming poll indicates that both the response rate and support for the installation of traffic calming measures fail to satisfy the minimum requirements. Furthermore, the technical requirements to warrant the installation were not satisfied. Therefore, staff do not recommend the installation of speed humps on Earlington Avenue.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. Etobicoke York Community Council not authorize the installation of traffic calming (speed humps) on Earlington Avenue, between Dundas Street West and Government Road.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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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 Earlington Avenue, the estimated cost of installing two speed humps is \$8,000. Funding would be subject to availability and competing priorities within the Transportation Services 2024 Capital Budget.

## DECISION HISTORY

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At its meeting on June 27, 2022, Etobicoke York Community Council adopted Item EY33.57 "Traffic Calming - Earlington Avenue" and, in so doing, directed Transportation Services to request the City Clerk to poll eligible householders in English or any other language specified by Community Council, on Earlington Avenue, between Dundas Street West and Government Road, to determine if property owners/occupants support the installation of speed humps, according to the City of Toronto Traffic Calming Policy and report to Etobicoke York Community Council in the first quarter of 2023 on the findings of the poll.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2022.EY33.57>

## COMMENTS

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The former Ward Councillor had requested Transportation Services to report on the results of the poll undertaken in March 2023, regarding the installation of speed humps on Earlington Avenue, between Dundas Street West and Government Road. 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

As Earlington Avenue is not within a designated Community Safety Zone nor a School Speed Zone, the 50 percent plus one response rate is required.

### Poll Results

The City Clerk received back 102 out of the 237 ballots that were mailed out. This is a response rate of 43 percent and less than the required minimum of 50 percent plus one. Of the 102 ballots received back, Table 1 summarizes the level of support for speed humps.

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

Response Type	Number of ballots	Percentage
In Favour	56	55%
Opposed	38	37%
Spoiled Ballot	8	8%

The poll is deemed to be a negative poll as the response rate was 43 percent which is less than the required minimum of 50 percent plus one.

## **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 Earlington Avenue on November 3, 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 41 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 41 km/h is 9 km/h below the warranted speed of 50 km/h and less than the required 10 km/h minimum.

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 Earlington Avenue.

## **Alternate Recommendations**

If, despite the findings above, Etobicoke York Community decides to proceed with installing speed humps on Earlington Avenue, between Dundas Street West and Government Road, it may approve the following:

"That the Etobicoke York Community Council:

1. Authorize the installation of traffic calming (speed humps) on Earlington Avenue, between Dundas Street West and Government Road, despite the study results that did not satisfy the traffic calming warrant 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 Earlington Avenue, between Dundas Street West and Government Road, generally as shown on Attachment 1, dated September 2022 attached to the report entitled "Traffic Calming Poll Results - Earlington Avenue" from the Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services.

A map of the area and proposed locations of the speed humps is included in Attachment 1.

## **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 Earlington 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 Etobicoke York Community Council has the final decision on the matter. However, they might interpret the poll results as the final decision on this matter.

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

### **CONTACT**

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### **SIGNATURE**

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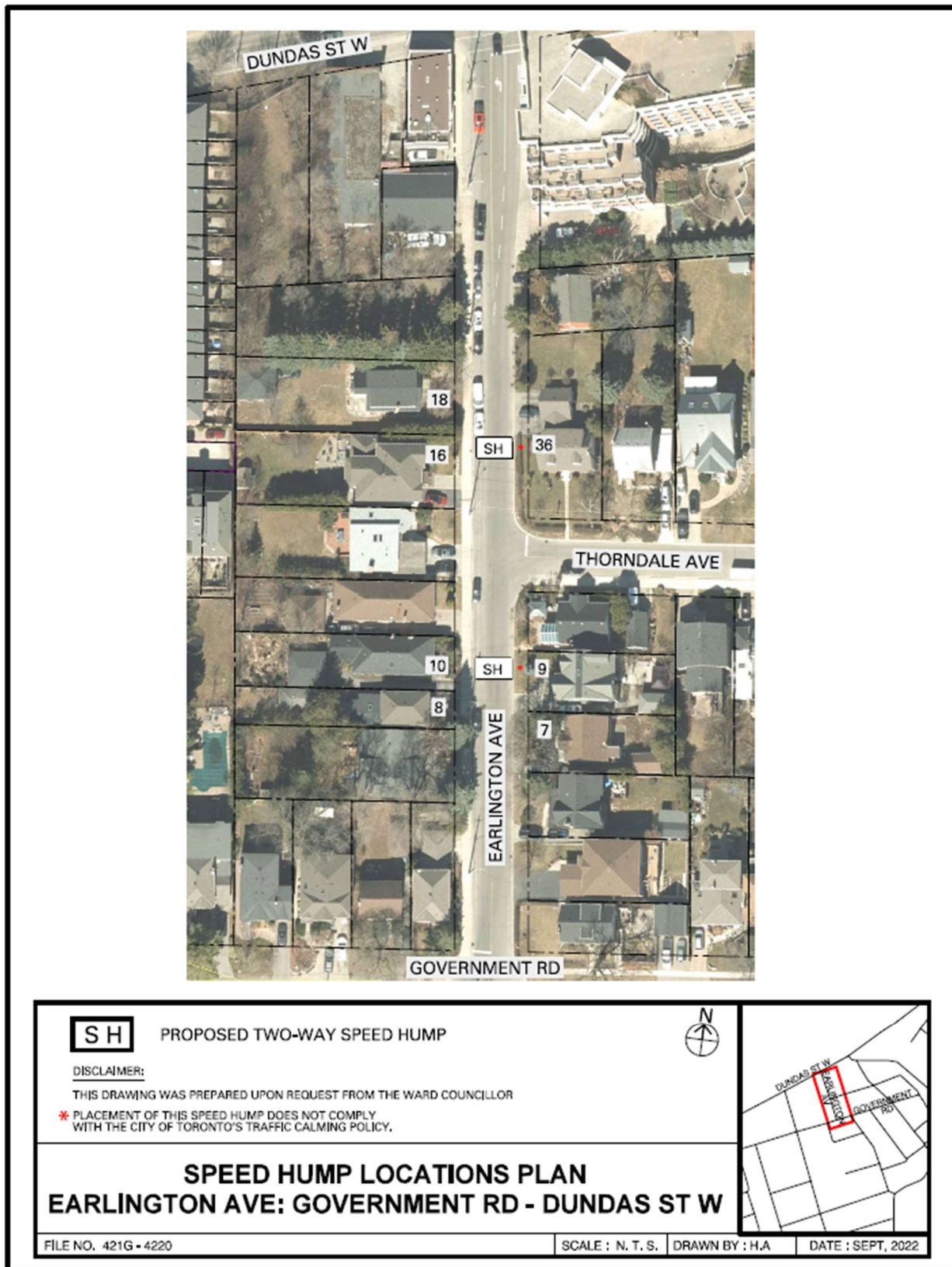
Roger Browne, M.A.Sc., P. Eng.  
Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services

### **ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment 1: Speed Hump Locations Plan - Earlington Avenue  
Attachment 2: Letter from Toronto Fire Services, dated June 20, 2023

# Attachment 1: Speed Hump Locations Plan - Earlington Avenue



## Attachment 2: Letter from Toronto Fire Services, dated June 20, 2023



### Emergency Management

Fire Services  
75 Toryork Drive  
Toronto, Ontario

Tel: 416-338-9510  
Fax: 416-338-9527

June 20, 2023

To: Kevin Akins

**RE: Earlington Avenue (Between Government Rd. and Dundas St. West) Speed Hump Investigative Summary TCP 2022-086**

We are in receipt of and have reviewed the proposal for installation of traffic calming measures (speed humps) on Government Road **(Between Government Rd. and Dundas St. West)** and provide the following comments.

Fire Services does not support this 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, we note that the polling response rate criteria and the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed warrant criteria (Traffic Calming Policy) have not been met.

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,

Rob Mezzapelli  
Emergency Management  
Toronto Fire Services  
(416)338-9512