

Traffic Calming Poll Results - Government Road

Date: August 30, 2023

To: Etobicoke York Community Council

From: Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 3- Etobicoke-Lakeshore

SUMMARY

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 Government Road, between Thorndale Crescent/Mill Cove and The Kingsway. Polling ballots were mailed to the affected residents to determine the level of support in the community for the proposed installation of speed humps. Although, the results of the traffic calming poll indicate sufficient support for the installation of traffic calming measures, Transportation Services does not recommend the installation as the technical requirements to warrant the installation were not satisfied. Therefore, staff do not recommend the installation of speed humps on Government Road.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. Etobicoke York Community Council not authorize the installation of traffic calming (speed humps) on Government Road, between Thorndale Crescent/Mill Cove and The Kingsway.

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 Government Road, the estimated cost of installing nine speed humps is \$36,000. Funding would be subject to availability and competing priorities within the Transportation Services 2024 Capital Budget.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on June 27, 2022, Etobicoke York Community Council adopted Item EY33.56 "Traffic Calming - Government Road" 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 Government Road, between Thorndale Crescent/Mill Cove and The Kingsway, 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.EY33.56>

COMMENTS

The Ward Councillor has requested Transportation Services to report on the results of the poll undertaken in March 2023, regarding the installation of speed humps on Government Road, between Thorndale Crescent/Mill Cove and The Kingsway. 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 Government Road in the area of Lambton-Kingsway Junior Middle School is designated as a Community Safety Zone, the 25 percent response rate is required.

Poll Results

The City Clerk received back 121 out of the 227 ballots that were mailed out. This is a response rate of 53 percent and more than the required minimum of 25 percent. Of the 121 ballots received back, Table 1 summarizes the level of support for speed humps.

Table 1: Poll Results - Support for Speed Humps on Government Road

Response Type	Number of ballots	Percentage
In Favour	86	71%
Opposed	26	21%
Spoiled Ballot	9	7%

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 at three locations on Government Road on September 14, 2021 and November 2, 2021. The locations on Government Road are as follows:

- west of Dunedin Drive
- east of Prince Edward Drive
- east of Walford Road

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 44 km/h west of Dunedin, 40 km/h east of Prince Edward Drive and 43 km/h east of Walford Road. 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 44 km/h is 4 km/h over the warranted speed of 40 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 Government Road.

Alternate Recommendations

If, despite the findings above, Etobicoke York Community Council decides to proceed with installing speed humps on Government Road, between Thorndale Crescent/Mill Cove and The Kingsway, it may approve the following:

"That the Etobicoke York Community Council:

1. Authorize the installation of traffic calming (speed humps) on Government Road, between Thorndale Crescent/Mill Cove and The Kingsway, 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 nine speed humps on Government Road, between Thorndale Crescent/Mill Cove and The Kingsway, generally as shown on Attachment 1, dated September 2022 attached to the report entitled "Traffic Calming Poll Results - Government Road" 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 Government Road have been notified in writing by the City Clerk that the speed hump poll on this street did 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

Shawn Dillon, Manager Traffic Operations Area 2, Transportation Services, 416-394-8409, Shawn.Dillon@toronto.ca

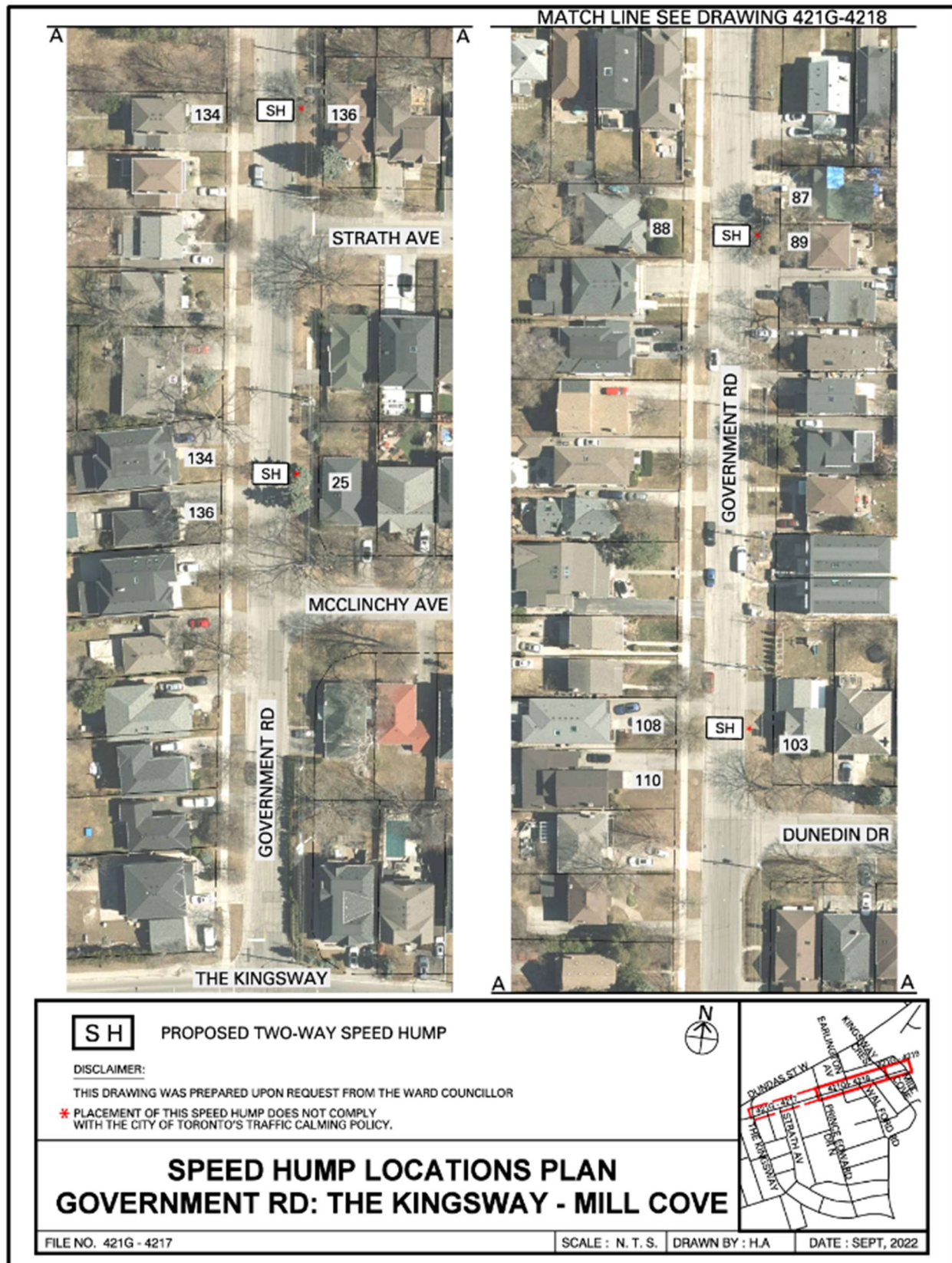
SIGNATURE

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

ATTACHMENTS

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

Attachment 1: Speed Hump Locations Plan - Government Road







MATCH LINE SEE DRAWING 421G-4218



PROPOSED TWO-WAY SPEED HUMP

DISCLAIMER:

THIS DRAWING WAS PREPARED UPON REQUEST FROM THE WARD COUNCILLOR

* PLACEMENT OF THIS SPEED HUMP DOES NOT COMPLY
WITH THE CITY OF TORONTO'S TRAFFIC CALMING POLICY.



SPEED HUMP LOCATIONS PLAN GOVERNMENT RD: THE KINGSWAY - MILL COVE

FILE NO. 421G - 4219

SCALE : N. T. S.

DRAWN BY : H.A

DATE : SEPT, 2022

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: Government Road (Between Mill Cove/Thorndale Cr. and The Kingsway) Speed Hump
Investigative Summary TCSZ 2022-085**

We are in receipt of and have reviewed the proposal for installation of traffic calming measures (speed humps) on Government Road **(Between Mill Cove/Thorndale Cr. and The Kingsway)** 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 85th percentile speed warrant criteria (Traffic Calming Policy) has 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