

Traffic Calming - Ellis Avenue

Date: September 27, 2023

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 Ellis Avenue, between Jane Street and Gibson Avenue. 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 Ellis Avenue.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. Etobicoke York Community Council not authorize the installation of traffic calming (speed humps) on Ellis Avenue, between Jane Street and Gibson Avenue.

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 Ellis Avenue, the estimated cost of installing three speed humps is \$12,000. Funding would be subject to availability and competing priorities within the Transportation Services 2024 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 Ellis Avenue, between Jane Street and Gibson Avenue, to address concerns with speeding vehicles.

Existing Conditions

Ellis Avenue is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is a two-lane, east-west, local roadway
- It operates two-way traffic on a pavement width of approximately 8.5 metres
- The daily two-way traffic volume is approximately 700 vehicles
- The speed limit is 30 km/h
- Heavy trucks are prohibited at all times
- There is no TTC service provided
- There are sidewalks located on both sides of the street

The land use in the area consists of detached and semi-detached residential dwellings. This subject section of Ellis Avenue 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 road grade. 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 Ellis Avenue between October 12th and October 14th, 2021.

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

- **Minimum Volume:** The average daily traffic volume of 719 vehicles for the subject segment of Ellis Avenue, is less than the required minimum of 1,000 vehicles per day needed to satisfy the traffic calming installation criteria.
- **Minimum speed:** The operating speed, which is the speed at which 85 percent of traffic is travelling at or below, was observed at 49 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 49 km/h is 1 km/h less than the warranted speed limit of 50 km/h and less than the required 10 km/h minimum.

As required by the Traffic Calming Policy, staff evaluated the speeds of vehicles against the warranted speed limit of 50 km/h and not the posted speed limit of 30 km/h.

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 Ellis Avenue.

Alternate Recommendations

If, despite the findings above, Etobicoke York Community Council decides to proceed with installing speed humps on Ellis Avenue, between Jane Street and Gibson Avenue, 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 Ellis Avenue, between Jane Street and Gibson Avenue, 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 Ellis Avenue, between Jane Street and Gibson Avenue.
 - b. direct the City Solicitor to prepare a by-law to alter sections of the roadway to install three speed humps on Ellis Avenue, between Jane Street and Gibson Avenue, for traffic calming purposes, generally as shown on Attachment 2, dated September 2023, attached to the report entitled "Traffic Calming - Ellis Avenue" from the Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services."

The estimated cost for installing three speed humps on Ellis Avenue is \$12,000. The installation of speed humps on Ellis Avenue would be subject to availability in Transportation Services 2024 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 Safety 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 Ellis Avenue, between Jane Street and Gibson Avenue, 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 Ellis Avenue, between Jane Street and Gibson Avenue, scored 7 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.

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

ATTACHMENT

Attachment 1: Traffic Calming Warrant - Ellis Avenue

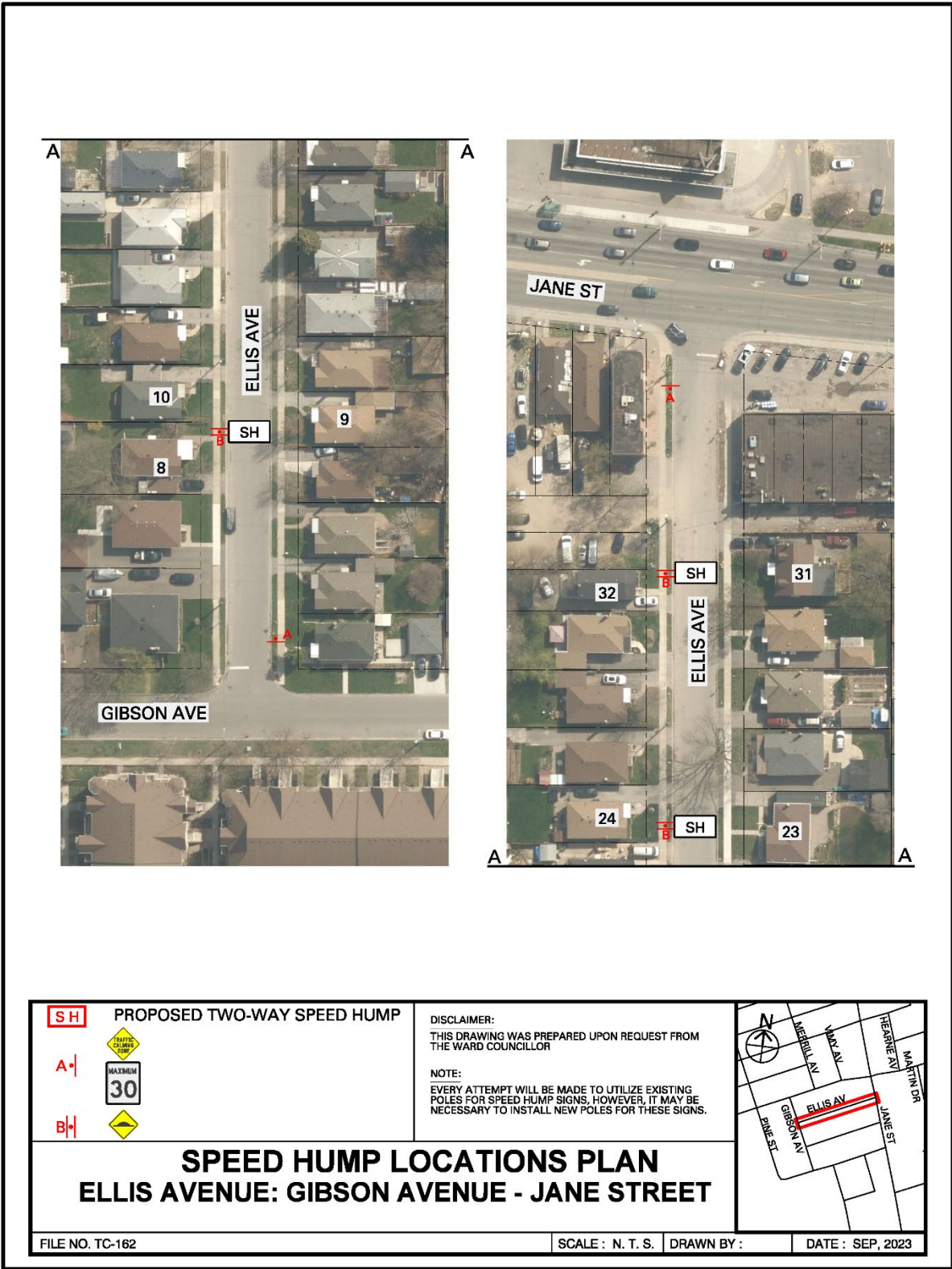
Attachment 2: Speed Hump Locations Plan - Ellis Avenue

Attachment 3: Letter from Toronto Fire Services, dated September 7, 2023

Attachment 1: Traffic Calming Warrant - Ellis Avenue

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	Yes, both sides of the road
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	Comments requested
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 (49 km/h)
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	No (719 vpd)
Minimum Block Length	On streets where mid-block traffic calming measures are proposed, the minimum block length must exceed 120 metres	Yes (242 metres)
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 Locations Plan - Ellis Avenue



Attachment 3: Letter from Toronto Fire Services, dated September 7, 2023

Humera Khatoon

From: Stephanie Moyle
Sent: September 7, 2023 9:08 AM
To: Humera Khatoon
Cc: 'Andy.Sawyer@torontopolice.on.ca, emsplanning@toronto.ca, Larysa.Sereda@toronto.ca'
Subject: RE: Request of comments on speed humps at Ellis Avenue

September 7, 2023

To: Humera Khatoon

Re: Traffic calming measures on Ellis Ave between Jane Street and Gibson Ave.

Good morning, Humera,

We are in receipt of and have reviewed the proposal for installation of traffic calming measures (speed humps) on Ellis Ave between Jane Street and Gibson Ave.

Toronto 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 has a great impact on large fire vehicles. Response times increase with every obstacle encountered on route to any emergency incident and the cumulative impact of several speed humps can add a significant amount of time to an emergency response. Additionally, as indicated in the review documents circulated, both speed and volume Warrant Criteria (Traffic Calming Policy) has not been fully met.

Toronto 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,

Stephanie Moyle

Toronto Fire Services
Captain
Emergency Planning
Technical Operations Division
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