

Traffic Calming (Speed Humps) - Whitmore Avenue

Date: September 6, 2024

To: North York Community Council

From: Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 8, Eglinton-Lawrence

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 recommending the installation of speed humps on Whitmore Avenue, between Dufferin Street and Jimmy Wisdom Way. Staff's assessment indicates the criteria as set out in the updated Traffic Calming Policy has been satisfied. Therefore, speed humps should be installed on Whitmore Avenue, between Dufferin Street and Jimmy Wisdom Way.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. North York Community Council authorize the installation of speed humps on Whitmore Avenue, between Dufferin Street and Jimmy Wisdom Way.
2. North York Community Council direct the City Solicitor to prepare a by-law to alter the roadway for the installation of three (3) speed humps on Whitmore Avenue, between Dufferin Street and Jimmy Wisdom Way, generally as shown on Attachment 2, Drawing TC-326 dated August 2024, attached to the report entitled "Traffic Calming (Speed Humps) - Whitmore Avenue" from the Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated cost for installing three (3) speed humps on Whitmore Avenue, between Dufferin Street and Jimmy Wisdom Way is \$12,000. Funding is subject to availability and competing priorities within the Transportation Services 2025 Capital Budget.

DECISION HISTORY

This report addresses a new initiative.

COMMENTS

Transportation Services received a request from the Ward Councillor, on behalf of area residents, to investigate the feasibility of installing speed humps on Whitmore Avenue, between Dufferin Street and Jimmy Wisdom Way. The residents are concerned that motorists travel at a high rate of speed on Whitmore Avenue.

Existing Conditions

Whitmore Avenue is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is a single-lane, east-west, local roadway
- It operates one-way traffic on a pavement width of approximately 8.5 metres
- The daily one-way traffic volume is approximately 1312 vehicles
- The speed limit is 40 km/h
- Heavy trucks are prohibited at all times
- There is no Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) service provided
- There are sidewalks located on both sides of the street
- Permit parking is allowed from 12:00 midnight to 6:00 a.m., daily
- Permit parking alternates from one side of the street to the other, midmonth

Vision Zero, as part of the road safety plan, approved 30 km/h speed limits for all local streets in this area. However, at the time that this report was prepared the required signage has not been installed. The required signage will be installed as scheduling and budget permits.

The land use in the area primarily consists of detached and semi-detached residential dwellings. This subject section of Whitmore Avenue is not within a designated Community Safety Zone.

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

Study Results

As part of the assessment of the warrant criteria, a three-day vehicle speed and volume study was conducted on Whitmore Avenue on November 1 to 3, 2022.

The study results on Whitmore Avenue disclosed the following:

- 24-hour total vehicle volume is 1,312 vehicles
- The block length from Dufferin Street to Jimmy Wisdom Way is 245 metres

- The operating speed, which is the speed at which 85 percent of traffic is travelling at or below, was observed at 43 km/h
- The 95th percentile speed, which is the speed at which 95 percent of traffic is travelling at or below, was observed at 48 km/h

Based on the study results, Whitmore Avenue has satisfied the warrant criteria for both minimum block length and minimum vehicle speed. The block length was greater than 120 metres and the operating speed is more than 8 km/h over the warranted speed of 30 km/h; and the 95th percentile is more than 15 km/h over the warranted speed of 30 km/h.

The overall investigation concluded that the eligibility and warrant criteria as outlined in the updated Traffic Calming Policy has been satisfied. Therefore, staff recommend the installation of speed humps on Whitmore Avenue, between Dufferin Street and Jimmy Wisdom Way.

Relative Priority and Other Impacts

In the event that the number of approved requests for roadway traffic calming measures exceed the budget allocated for installation, funding for approved installations will be prioritized using a Prioritization Score. This score is made up of a Quantitative Score and a Qualitative Score.

The Quantitative Score is based on the results of the data collection, including travel speeds and traffic volumes to prioritize locations with higher vehicle speeds and volumes.

The Qualitative Score includes:

- Collision history to prioritize locations with a history of serious injury or fatal collisions and those involving a pedestrian or cyclist
- Equity to prioritize equity-deserving communities with a high-concentration of priority populations and those that are transportation disadvantaged
- Expected presence of vulnerable road users (elderly population, school children and pedestrians, including transit riders) to prioritize locations with a higher risk of fatal and serious injury collisions

The Quantitative and Qualitative Scores are averaged to provide the complete Prioritization Score. Whitmore Avenue, between Dufferin Street and Jimmy Wisdom Way, scored 40 ranking points out of a possible 100.

No alterations to parking regulations will be required, nor will the number of parking spaces be affected by the installation of speed humps. Installation of speed humps will have minimal effect on winter services, street cleaning and garbage collection.

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. Toronto Paramedic Services expressed no concerns with regards to installation of speed humps on Whitmore Avenue. Copies of their full responses are included in Attachments 3 and 4. Toronto Police Service have not provided comments back at the time of writing this report. Installing speed humps/speed cushions will result in slower operating speeds for all vehicles, including emergency service vehicles.

The Ward Councillor has been advised of the recommendations 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

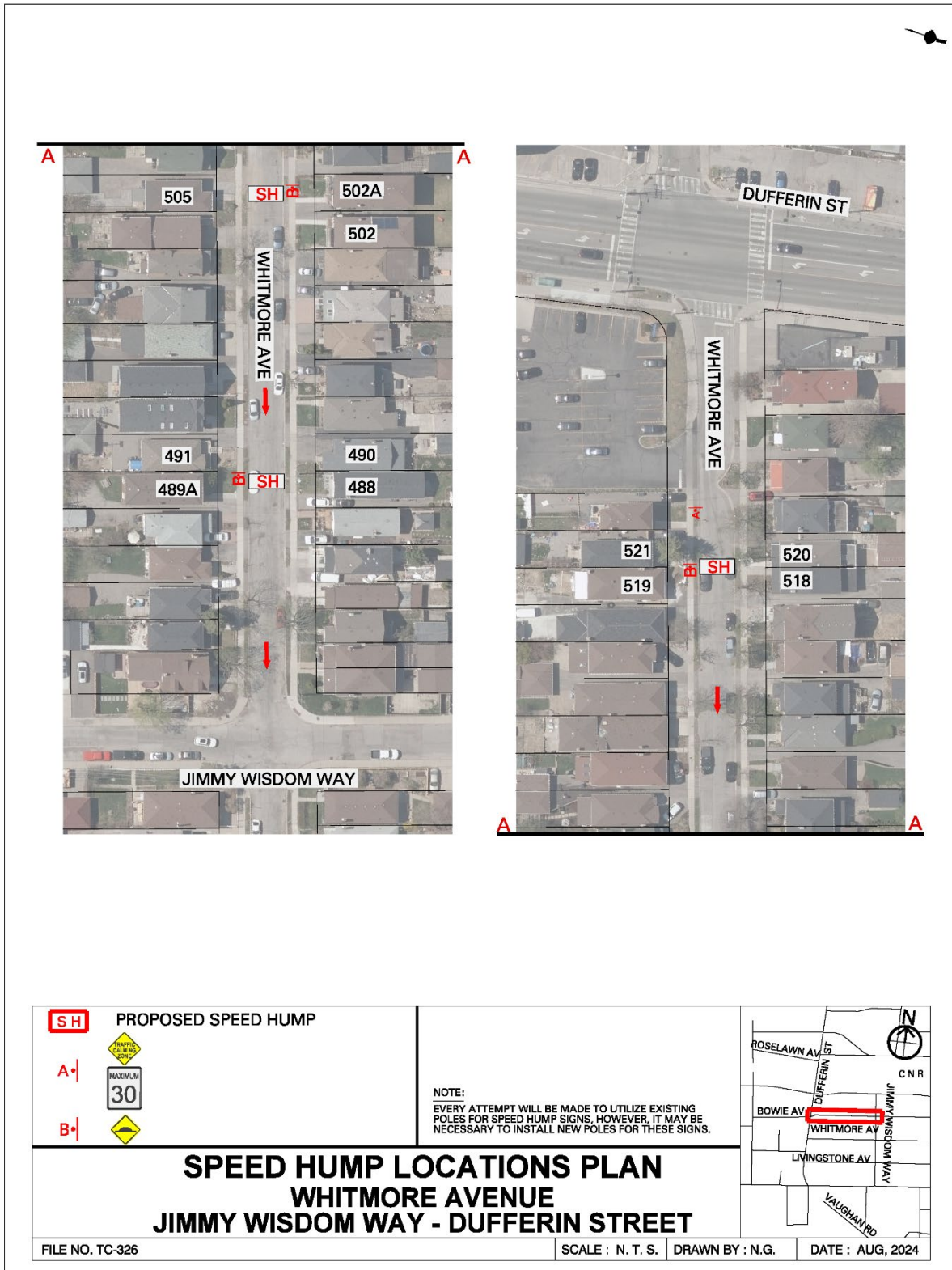
ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Traffic Calming Warrant - Whitmore Avenue
Attachment 2: Speed Hump Locations Plan - Whitmore Avenue
Attachment 3: Letter from Toronto Fire Services, dated July 29, 2024
Attachment 4: Letter from Toronto Paramedic Services, dated July 29, 2024

Attachment 1: Traffic Calming Warrant - Whitmore Avenue

Criteria		Requirement	Warrant Satisfied?
Community Support		A direct request from the Ward Councillor OR identified by Transportation Services in consultation with the Ward Councillor	Yes
Eligibility Criteria	Road Classification	Classified as a local or collector roadway, according to the Toronto Road Classification System	Yes
	Sidewalks	Presence of a sidewalk on at least one side of a local roadway and both sides of a collector roadway is preferred but not required	Yes
	Traffic Volume	Maximum average daily traffic volume of less than 8,000 vehicles per day	Yes
	Road Grade	Maximum roadway grade of up to 5%, can be considered in locations where the road grade is between 5% and 8% with additional review	Yes
	Emergency Services	No significant impacts on emergency services, including Toronto Fire, Paramedic and Police Services	No
	Transit Services	No significant impacts to regularly scheduled Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) services	Yes
Warrant Criteria	Minimum Block Length	Minimum block length of 120 metres based on the measured distance from centre to centre of controlled intersections AND	Yes (245 m)
	85th percentile speed	Minimum 85th percentile speed of 8 km/h over the warranted speed limit OR	Yes (43 km/h)
	95th percentile speed	Minimum 95th percentile speed of 15 km/h over the warranted speed limit	Yes (48 km/h)

Attachment 2: Speed Hump Locations Plan - Whitmore Avenue





Matthew Pegg
Fire Chief and General Manager

Paul Raftis
Deputy City Manager
Community & Social Services

Fire Services
4330 Dufferin Street
Toronto, Ontario M3H 5R9

Email: OfficeoftheFireChief@toronto.ca

July 29, 2024

Temitope Oyeyemi
ETT 1, Traffic Operations – Area 2,
Transportation Services,
5100 Yonge Street, 4th Floor,
North York, ON M2N 5V7

RE: Whitmore Avenue, between Dufferin Street and Jimmy Wisdom Way Speed Hump Investigative Summary

We are in receipt of and have reviewed the proposal for installation of traffic calming measures (speed humps) on **(Whitmore Avenue, between Dufferin Street and Jimmy Wisdom Way)** and provide the following comments.

Toronto Fire Services does not support this proposed speed hump installation as it may negatively impact service delivery. The physical restrictions imposed by speed humps have a greater impact on fire vehicles. Response time increases with every obstacle encountered responding to any emergency incident and the cumulative impact of several speed humps can increase responses times.

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,

Claudio Gloazzo
Acting District Chief
for
Joseph Del Vasto
District Chief
Emergency Planning
Toronto Fire Services
(416) 338-9136



Attachment 4: Letter from Toronto Paramedic Services, dated July 29, 2024

Temitope Oyeyemi

From: EMS Planning
Sent: July 29, 2024 10:00 AM
To: Temitope Oyeyemi
Cc: Atif Sharif; Jennifer Chung; EMS Planning; EMS Planning
Subject: Whitmore Avenue, between Dufferin Street and Jimmy Wisdom Way - installation of speed humps

We have received and reviewed the proposal for installation of speed humps on Whitmore Ave, between Dufferin St and Jimmy Wisdom Way, with the following comments:

The installation of speed humps on Whitmore Ave will impact response and transport times for residents that reside on the roadway speed humps are installed. Impacts may extend to community members if Whitmore Ave serves access to other roadways. It is important that the applicant understands that the installation of traffic calming devices will reduce the speed that emergency vehicles travel when responding to emergencies on roadways where they are installed.

Toronto Paramedic Services is supportive of community initiatives that improve the safety of all citizens of, and visitors to, the City of Toronto. Traffic and pedestrian safety are key components of a healthy neighbourhood, and we endeavour to support the wishes of the community to implement measures to improve upon these components.