

Speed Limit Reductions – Collector Roads, Ashcott Street and Strawberry Hills Drive

Date: December 22, 2023

To: Scarborough Community Council

From: Director, Planning, Design, and Management, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 23 – Scarborough North

SUMMARY

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

In support of the City Council adopted [Steeles Avenue East Complete Streets](#) project, Transportation Services is installing three raised crosswalks to improve safety for pedestrians at two signalized intersections along the Steeles Avenue East corridor, Ashcott Street and Strawberry Hills Drive.

To support these raised crosswalks, Transportation Services recommends speed limit reductions from 40 km/h to 30 km/h on Ashcott Street from Port Royal Trail to Steeles Avenue East, and on Strawberry Hills Drive from Goldhawk Trail to Steeles Avenue East.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director, Planning, Design & Management, Transportation Services, recommends that:

1. Scarborough Community Council reduce the speed limit from 40 km/h to 30 km/h on Ashcott Street, between Port Royal Trail and Steeles Avenue East.
2. Scarborough Community Council reduce the speed limit from 40 km/h to 30 km/h on Strawberry Hills Drive, between Steeles Avenue East and Goldhawk Trail.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The financial cost of installing the proposed speed limit signs is approximately \$1,400. Funding is available within the Transportation Services 2024 Capital Budget.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of April 6, 2023, City Council authorized the installation of the Steeles Avenue East Complete Streets project as part of the Cycling Network Plan: 2022 Cycling Infrastructure Installation, between Kennedy Road and a point 150 metres east of McCowan Road. The staff report is available under IEC agenda item [2022.IE28.7](#).

COMMENTS

In 2024, Steeles Avenue East, between Midland Avenue and McCowan Road, is scheduled for state-of-good-repair roadwork that will also include improvements to substandard sidewalk widths, accessible curb depressions, the addition of tactile walking surface indicators at crosswalks, and other improvements to safety and operations for all road users, including cyclists.

Existing Conditions

Ashcott Street from Port Royal Trail to Steeles Avenue East is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is a two-lane north-south, collector roadway;
- It operates two-way traffic on a pavement width of approximately 9 metres;
- The posted regulatory speed limit is 40 km/h;
- Heavy vehicles are prohibited at all times;
- There is no Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) service; and
- There are sidewalks located on both sides of the street.

Strawberry Hills Drive from Goldhawk Trail to Steeles Avenue East is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is a two-lane north-south, collector roadway;
- It operates two-way traffic on a pavement width of approximately 9 metres;
- The posted regulatory speed limit is 40 km/h;
- Heavy vehicles are prohibited at all times;
- There is no Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) service; and
- There are sidewalks located on both sides of the street.

Planned Changes

The Steeles Avenue East Complete Streets project includes the installation of wider sidewalks, uni-directional raised cycle tracks, over 350 new tree plantings and boulevard greening, while maintaining the existing two motor vehicle travel lanes in each direction, east and west.

To support improved safety along the Steeles Avenue East corridor, three raised crosswalks will be constructed at the intersections of Steeles Avenue East at Ashcott Street and Strawberry Hills Drive (refer to Attachment 1 - Figure 1, Map). Emergency services (Toronto Fire Services and Toronto Paramedic Services) were advised of this

proposal and confirm they have no objections to the installation of these raised crosswalks.

Where there are raised crosswalks, Transportation Services recommends a reduction in speed limits from 40 km/h to 30 km/h on Ashcott Street from Port Royal Trail to Steeles Avenue East, and Strawberry Hills Drive from Goldhawk Trail to Steeles Avenue East. Ashcott Street and Strawberry Hills Drive are classified as collector roads.

The raised crosswalks along the Steeles Ave East corridor will help create a safer connection for pedestrians and people cycling by improving visibility and encouraging motorists to reduce speed. The raised crosswalks will also improve accessibility and maintain the pedestrian crossing at a 'high point' in winter conditions to help eliminate the accumulation of slush and snow where people are crossing.

The north side of Steeles Avenue East borders the City of Markham. Transportation Services staff have corresponded with City of Markham regarding the planned design and the installation of advisory signs on City of Toronto right-of-way.

The Ward Councillor has been informed of the recommendations of this report.

CONTACT

Becky Katz
Manager, Cycling and Pedestrian Projects
Planning, Design, and Management
Transportation Services
Tel: 416-392-9065
E-Mail: Becky.Katz@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Jacquelyn Hayward
Director, Planning, Design, and Management
Transportation Services

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Figure 1, Map



Figure 1: Illustrative map of Steeles Ave East and proposed locations for raised crosswalks and speed limit reductions on local roads.