

Speed Limit Review - Kingston Road, between Midland Avenue and Brimley Road/Brimley Road South

Date: June 19, 2025

To: Scarborough Community Council

From: Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 20, Scarborough Southwest

SUMMARY

As the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates a transit service on Kingston Road, City Council approval of this report is required.

Transportation Services is recommending that the speed limit on Kingston Road, between Midland Avenue and Brimley Road/Brimley Road South, be reduced from 60 km/h to 50 km/h. The proposed change will be consistent with the speed limit on Kingston Road, west of Midland Avenue, and will align with the Speed Management Strategy outlined in Vision Zero 2.0 - Road Safety Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council reduce the speed limit from 60 km/h to 50 km/h on Kingston Road, between Midland Avenue and Brimley Road/Brimley Road South.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The signage costs associated with the proposed amendments are approximately \$2,000.00. Funding is available within the Transportation Services 2025 Operating Budget.

DECISION HISTORY

On November 1, 2024, City Council adopted, with amendments, Item SC17.23 (Kingston Road - Speed Limit Reduction), directing Transportation Services to review the section of Kingston Road, between Midland Avenue and Brimley Road/Brimley Road South with respect to speed management, including the potential for a speed limit reduction. The Scarborough Community Council decision can be found at:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.SC17.23>

COMMENTS

Transportation Services was directed by Scarborough Community Council to review the section of Kingston Road, between Midland Avenue and Brimley Road/Brimley Road South, with respect to speed management, including the potential for a speed limit reduction, in response to concerns raised by staff and parents at St. Theresa Shrine Catholic Elementary School.

Existing Conditions

Kingston Road, within the subject section, is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is a six-lane, east-west, major arterial roadway
- It operates two-way traffic on a pavement width of approximately 27 metres, with an approximately 5-metre wide concrete median separating the two directions of traffic
- The daily two-way traffic volume is approximately 34,000 vehicles
- The speed limit is 60 km/h
- There is TTC service provided by the 12 Kingston Road and 69 Warden South bus routes
- There are sidewalks located on both sides of the street
- There is a Community Safety Zone extending from Chine Drive to Brimley Road/Brimley Road South

The land use along this section of Kingston Road is a mix of residential detached and apartment dwellings, along with institutional and community uses. St. Theresa Shrine Catholic Elementary School and St. Augustine's Seminary are located on the south side, Resthaven Memorial Gardens Cemetery is located on the north side. These properties are accessible via a signalized private driveway. Additionally, St. John Henry Newman Catholic High School is situated adjacent to the seminary. TTC stops are located at the signalized intersections of Midland Avenue, Brimley Road, Chine Drive, and at the Resthaven/St. Augustine driveway.

The parking regulations on Kingston Road, within the subject section are as follows:

North side

- No parking from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., Monday to Friday, except public holidays
- Three-hour maximum, statutory parking at other times

South side

- No parking from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except public holidays between Midland Avenue and a point 79 metres east of Chine Drive
- No stopping anytime between a point 79 metres east of Chine Drive Brimley Road/Brimley Road South
- Three-hour maximum, statutory parking at other times

Proposed Changes

Transportation Services has reviewed the traffic conditions on Kingston Road, between Midland Avenue and Brimley Road/Brimley Road South, to assess the suitability of a speed limit reduction within this corridor.

A review of Toronto Police Service collision data for the three-year period ending January 1, 2025, revealed 18 reported midblock collisions on Kingston Road, between (but not including) Midland Avenue and Brimley Road/Brimley Road South. Of these, four involved motorist behaviours such as speeding, following too closely, improper lane changes, or loss of control. There were no collisions involving pedestrians or cyclists.

Speed studies conducted over a 72-hour period in November 2024 recorded 85th percentile (operating) speeds of 63.9 km/h and 67.8 km/h at two locations within the study area. While these values exceed the posted speed limit, they remain within a typical range for major arterials with this design. The observed operating speeds reflect the influence of the corridor's geometry, which includes wide travel lanes, a straight alignment, and physical separation by a concrete median, all characteristics that contribute to a comfortable, free-flowing driving environment. These design elements typically support speeds above the posted limit, even in the absence of intentional speeding. As such, while the recorded speeds exceed 60 km/h, they are not unexpected for a road of this classification and configuration.

Although the data does not indicate an urgent safety concern, the presence of a designated Community Safety Zone and schools along this corridor warrant a more proactive approach. Reducing the posted speed limit from 60 km/h to 50 km/h would align with the City's Vision Zero objectives. It would also ensure consistency with the adjacent section of Kingston Road, west of Midland Avenue, where a 50 km/h limit was implemented in 2018. While lowering the speed limit establishes an important foundation, studies have shown that simply reducing the signed speed limit on similar arterial roads is not an effective way of reducing average operating speeds, but rather the likelihood of people travelling at very fast speeds drop significantly. Effective speed management, particularly on arterial roads designed for higher travel speeds, relies on a combination of regulatory, enforcement, and physical design strategies to support compliance with the reduced speed limit.

In this context, the upcoming Danforth-Kingston Complete Street Extension project, planned for implementation in 2027, presents an opportunity to introduce physical design changes that will better align the road's geometry with the intended operating speed.

Transportation Services supports reducing the speed limit on Kingston Road, between Midland Avenue and Brimley Road/Brimley Road South, from 60 km/h to 50 km/h. This recommendation takes into consideration the presence of schools, the designated Community Safety Zone, the adjacent 50 km/h section, and forthcoming infrastructure improvements.

A map of the area and proposed speed limit reduction is included in Attachment 1.

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

CONTACT

Dan Clement, CET, Manager Traffic Operations (Area 1), Transportation Services
416-396-3226, Dan.Clement@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

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

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Map - 50 km/Speed Limit- Kingston Road, between Midland Avenue and Brimley Road

Attachment 1: Map - 50 km/Speed Limit- Kingston Road, between Midland Avenue and Brimley Road

