

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 28, 2016

Item 24, Report No. 27, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 28, 2016.

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**SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION REVIEW
JOHNSWOOD CRESCENT
WARD 3**

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Deputy City Manager of Public Works and the Director of Transportation Services, Parks and Forestry Operations, dated June 21, 2016:

Recommendation

The Deputy City Manager of Public Works and the Director of Transportation Services, Parks and Forestry Operations recommend:

1. That a By-law be enacted to amend By-law 284-94, the Consolidated Traffic By-law, to amend the speed limit on Johnswood Crescent from 50 km/h to 40 km/h.

Contribution to Sustainability

This report contributes to the goals and objectives within Green Directions Vaughan, The City's Community Sustainability and Environmental Master Plan, specifically:

Goal 3: To ensure that Vaughan is a city that is easy to get around with a low environmental impact.

Objective 3.2: To develop and sustain a network of roads that supports efficient and accessible public and private transit.

Economic Impact

The cost associated with the installation of the 40 km/h signage has been included in the approved 2016 Operating Budget. The ongoing costs to maintain the signage will be incorporated into future year operating budgets.

Communications Plan

Staff will notify York Regional Police, and request enforcement on Johnswood Crescent once the reduced 40km/h speed limit is in place.

Purpose

To review the feasibility of implementing a reduced 40 km/h speed limit on Johnswood Crescent.

Background – Analysis and Options

Johnswood Crescent is a local roadway with a 17.5 metre right-of-way and an 8.5 metre pavement width. The road is a two lane urban cross-section, and a sidewalk exists on the south side of the roadway. Johnswood Crescent connects to two feeder roads, Ashberry Boulevard and Vellore Woods Boulevard that have a speed limit of 40km/hr. The existing speed on Johnswood Crescent is 50km/hr. The area is shown in Attachment No.1.

Area residents raised concerns for traffic infiltration and speeding on Johnswood Crescent.

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Residents of Johnswood Crescent met with staff in June 2015 to raise traffic concerns for traffic infiltration and speeding on Johnswood Crescent.

Staff conducted traffic studies in October 2015 that reviewed the extent of traffic infiltration, speeds and volumes on Johnswood Crescent. Staff also conducted traffic studies to review if all-way stop controls were met at any of the intersections along Johnswood Crescent.

The studies found that infiltration traffic was occurring primarily during the 7:00am to 9:00am period from a north-to-south travel pattern, exiting Johnswood Crescent at Vellore Woods Boulevard to travel further south to Rutherford Road.

The collected speeds were found to be in good compliance to the speed limit, and the volumes were within a local roadway's capacity. None of the intersections along Johnswood Crescent (at Avocet Drive, at Cattail Drive, and at Wheatfield Drive) met warrant requirements for all-way stop control installation.

A meeting with the Ratepayer's group was held on March 23, 2016 to discuss traffic options.

Staff met with the area Ratepayer's group on March 23, 2016 to present the study review and several options for consideration. The two options presented were:

1. "No Through-Right Turn 7:00-9:00am, Mon-Fri", eastbound Johnswood Crescent at Vellore Woods Boulevard.
2. A speed limit reduction to 40 km/h on Johnswood Crescent.

Based on comments received from the meeting, staff delivered surveys to potentially impacted area residents on Johnswood Crescent, Avocet Drive, Cattail Drive, and Wheatfield Drive outlining the two options. These surveys were delivered on April 13, 2016 with a request for option preference and any comments by April 29, 2016.

The majority of responses received from the survey were in favour of reducing the speed limit on Johnswood Crescent to 40 km/h.

A total of 113 surveys were delivered to area residences. Staff received completed surveys from 25 residences. The breakdown of responses is summarized below:

OPTION	NUMBER OF SURVEY RESPONSES
Option 1 - No Through-Right Turn 7:00-9:00am, Mon-Fri", eastbound Johnswood Crescent at Vellore Woods Boulevard.	0
Option 2 - A speed limit reduction to 40 km/h on Johnswood Crescent.	19
Prefer BOTH Option 1 and Option 2	3
Prefer NEITHER Option 1 or Option 2	3

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Out of the 25 respondents, 19 were in favour for Option 2, reducing the speed limit to 40 km/h on Johnswood Crescent. Further, 13 of the returned surveys commented, to request stop controls along Johnswood Crescent. A petition was also brought forward from the area Ratepayer's group requesting for stop controls and speed reduction from 50km/h to 40km/h along Johnswood Crescent.

A review of the surrounding land uses and roadway characteristics identified pedestrian activity to elementary schools and park space in the area.

Staff conducted a review of the surrounding land uses and roadway characteristics to assess the suitability of a reduced speed limit on Johnswood Crescent.

There are two elementary schools in the area of Johnswood Crescent, with Vellore Woods Public School located on Starling Boulevard, and St. Emily Catholic Elementary School located on Vellore Woods Boulevard. In addition, Vellore Hall Park is accessible via pathway to Johnswood Crescent. These uses generate pedestrian activity using Johnswood Crescent.

The reduced speed limit to 40 km/h on Johnswood Crescent would be consistent with the two adjacent feeder roads of Vellore Woods Boulevard and Ashberry Boulevard which currently have a speed limit of 40 km/h.

The reduced speed limit on Johnswood Crescent could also reduce the volume of infiltration traffic on Johnswood Crescent, as there would be no perceived faster route using Johnswood Crescent, rather than the feeder roads of Vellore Woods Boulevard and Ashberry Boulevard.

Based on survey results and surrounding land use and roadway characteristics, staff recommends reducing the speed limit on Johnswood Crescent from 50 km/h to 40 km/h.

Staff recommends reducing the speed limit on Johnswood Crescent from 50 km/h to 40 km/h based on a comprehensive traffic review. The reduced speed limit is also consistent with the reduced 40 km/h speed limits on Ashberry Boulevard and Vellore Woods Boulevard. In addition, the reduced speed limit may assist with the current traffic infiltration problem.

Relationship to Term of Council Service Excellence Strategy Map (2014-2018)

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Term of Council Service Excellence Strategy Map (2014-2018), the recommended speed limit reduction will improve traffic operations and safety for all road users, thus promoting community safety, health and wellness.

Regional Implications

Not applicable.

Conclusion

Based on the results of the traffic review, surrounding land uses, and roadway characteristics, including consistency with existing 40km/h speed limits on Ashberry Blvd and Vellore Woods Boulevard, it is recommended that the speed limit on Johnswood Crescent be reduced from 50 km/h to 40 km/h.

Attachment

1. Location Map

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(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)