

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – JUNE 16, 2003

ATHABASCA DRIVE TRAFFIC OPERATIONS

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends:

That no additional traffic control measures be installed on Athabasca Drive other than the 50 km/h speed limit signs recently installed on Athabasca Drive and Beakes Crescent west of Dufferin Street.

Purpose

To review traffic operations on Athabasca Drive, in response to a petition received from area residents.

Background - Analysis and Options

Athabasca Drive is a local roadway with a statutory speed limit of 50 km/h. It is a crescent with several angle bends between Dufferin Street south of Kirby Road and Beakes Crescent (west of Dufferin Street). The road network is primarily utilized by local residents. Refer to Attachment No. 1.

Residents have expressed concerns regarding the vehicle speeds on Athabasca Drive and pedestrian safety in the area. The Engineering Department received a petition dated March 28, 2003, from the residents of Athabasca Drive and the surrounding area. The petition is included as Attachment No. 2.

Staff conducted a review of the housing density on Kootney Ridge, Appalachian Drive and the northerly section of Athabasca Drive (between Dufferin Street and Hunterwood Chase). The number of residential homes that are located on these streets are 33, 11 and 29 respectively. These residential units would generate on average one vehicle trip per unit during the morning and evening peak traffic periods. Based on these numbers, the traffic generated on these roadways is relatively low and would not meet the provincial All Way Stop Warrant criteria under normal conditions. The minimum requirement for the side street traffic volumes on a Provincial warrant is 120 vehicles in the peak hour.

Staff conducted volume/speed studies on Athabasca Drive west of Dufferin Street from Friday May 23, 2003 and Tuesday May 27, 2003.

The results of the studies are indicated below.

	<u>Average Speed</u>	<u>85th Percentile</u>	<u>Volume/Day</u>
Saturday	40 Km/h	52 Km/h	502 vehicles
Sunday	40 Km/h	52 Km/h	461 vehicles
Monday	42 Km/h	53 Km/h	652 vehicles

It should be noted a previous speed study was conducted on April 10, 2003; the results of both speed studies are comparable. The results of the speed studies indicate that the majority of motorists are travelling at an acceptable rate of speed with the exception of the occasional speeder. Sporadic speeding is evident on many residential roadways throughout the City of Vaughan and is difficult to enforce.

Staff conducted a review of the collision history on Athabasca Drive. There are three (3) reportable collisions since 2000. The following information is provided from the accident reports regarding the collisions:

1. In March 2003, a motorist travelling at 25 km/h with the sun in her eyes did not see a pedestrian crossing the roadway, resulting in a fatality.
2. In June 2002, an unknown driver struck a parked car.
3. In September 2001, a motorist travelling westbound struck a wheelchair travelling westbound on Athabasca Drive. This collision was reported as a non-fatal injury.

Staff reviewed the feasibility of installing traffic calming measures on Athabasca Drive based on the Traffic Calming Policy and Procedure and the Traffic Calming Warrants recently adopted by Council. The priority rating system for the roadway is low and would not justify the installation of traffic calming on Athabasca Drive. Due to low traffic volume and speeds, and the residential nature of the road, additional traffic control is not warranted on Athabasca Drive.

Concerns were also raised with regard to the grade on Athabasca Drive just west of Dufferin Street as a possible sightline concern. Staff conducted observations and conclude that adequate sightlines are available.

Currently, the speed on Athabasca Drive is 50 km/h and therefore signs are not mandatory in accordance with the Highway Traffic Act (Sec. 128). However, posting the legal speed limit on roadways that intersect major arterial roadways, such as Dufferin Street, where the posted speed limit is 80 km/h, can be helpful in reminding motorists they must reduce their speed. Engineering staff have installed 50 km/h speed limit signs on Athabasca Drive and Beakes Crescent west of Dufferin Street.

Conclusion

Staff recommend that no additional traffic control measures be installed on Athabasca Drive other than the signs recently installed.

Attachments

1. Location Map
2. Petition

Report prepared by

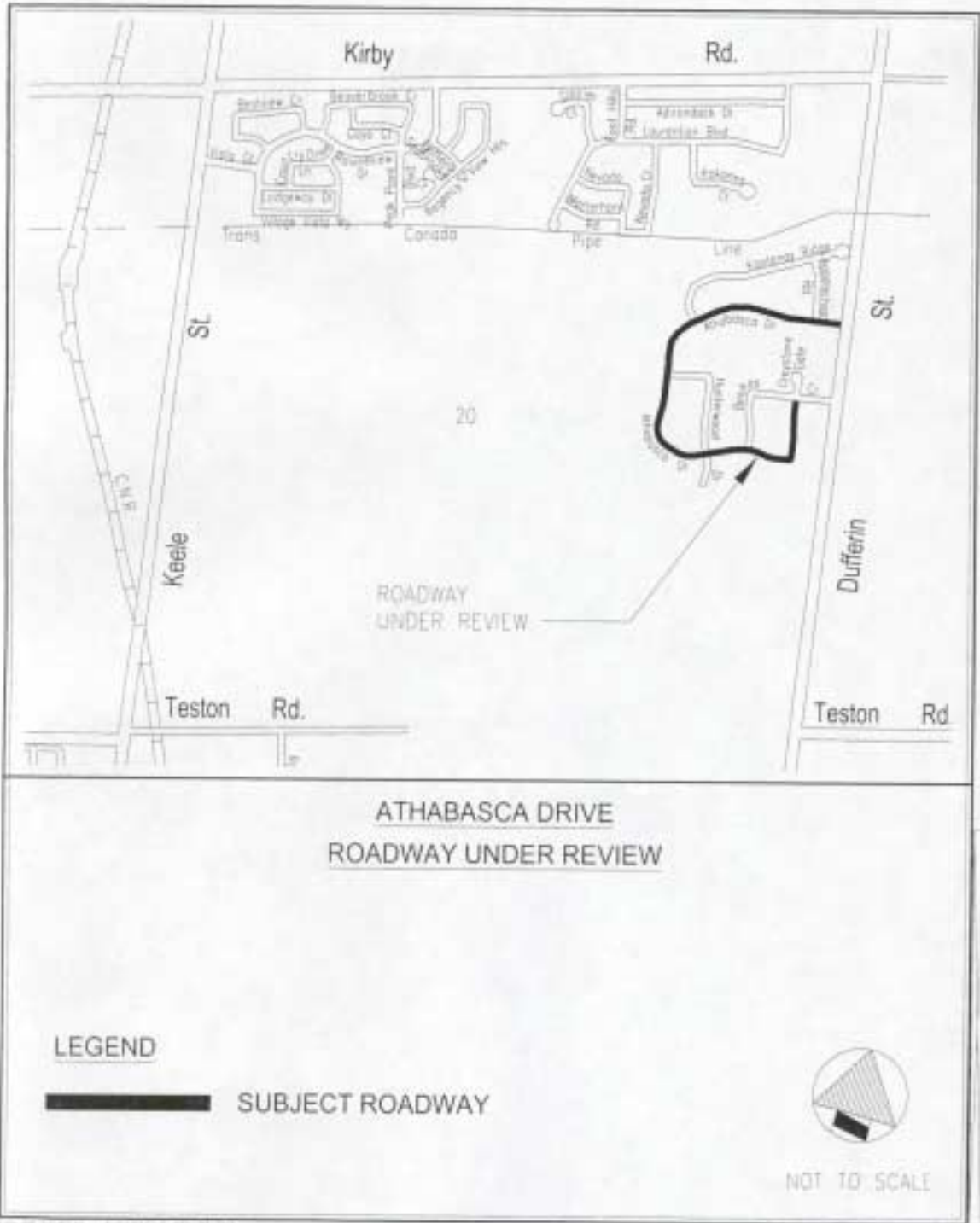
Jennifer Goetz, Transportation Analyst, ext 8674
Phil Weber, Transportation Engineer, ext. 8264

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Robinson, P. Eng.
Commissioner City Engineering and Public Works

JG/fc

ATTACHMENT No. 1





NOTICE OF PETITION

A petition has been submitted with respect to the following matter and a copy is on file in the office of the City Clerk:

Agenda Item No.: 16

Item Name: ATHABASCA DRIVE
TRAFFIC OPERATIONS

Particulars of the Petition:

Dated: March 28, 2003

No. of Signatures: 49

Submitted by: Residents of Ambassador Hills
Development, Maple, Ontario

For a copy of the petition contact:

**City of Vaughan, Clerk's Department, 2141 Major Mackenzie Drive, Vaughan, L6A 1T1
Tel: (905) 832-8504 Fax: (905) 832-8535**