

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – JUNE 20, 2005

KIRBY ROAD REDUCTION OF SPEED LIMIT

Recommendation

Councillor Peter Meffe recommends:

THAT the current speed limit of 80 Km/h per hour along Kirby Road from Keele Street to Dufferin Street be reduced to 60 Km/h.

AND THAT staff post the appropriate signage.

Purpose

To reduce speed and improve traffic safety along Kirby Road from Keele Street to Dufferin Street.

Background - Analysis and Options

The Maplewood Ravines Community Association contacted my office with regards speeding and accident concerns along Kirby Road from Keele Street to Dufferin Street. The subdivision in this area is now built out and a reduction of the speed limit is appropriate. Currently the speed limit along this portion of the road is 80 Km/h. Immediately to the west along Kirby Road from Keele Street to Highway No. 27 the speed limit is 60 Km/h, where presently there are no residential homes.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

The reduction of the speed along Kirby Road will improve community safety and control speeding vehicles.

Attachments

Letter from Maplewood Ravines Community Association.

Report prepared by:

Adele Panicali
Councillor Executive Assistant

Respectfully submitted,
Councillor Peter Meffe



MAPLEWOOD RAVINES
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

TO: Members of Council JUNE 16, 2005 VIA EMAIL
 City of Vaughan

TO: Chief Armand LaBarge
 York Regional Police

TO: Mr. Bill Fisch
 Chair and CEO, Regional Municipality of York

CC: All residents of the Maplewood Ravines Community Association

FROM: Loreto Grimaldi, B.B.A., M.B.A. LL.B.
 Chair, Development Committee -
 Maplewood Ravines Community Association

RE: Speeding/Safety Crisis on Kirby Road

The Maplewood Ravines Community Association (MRCA) represents over 600 households in the 4 residential communities located south of Kirby Road between Dufferin Street and Keele Street. We are a vocal and well-organized group dedicated to preserving and enhancing the quality of life in our neighbourhoods, and to ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents.

The purpose of this letter is to bring to your attention a very serious public safety issue concerning the stretch of Kirby Road spanning from Dufferin Street to the East and Keele Street to the West.

As you may know this stretch of Kirby Road was only recently built and opened for use (2003). The road opening was viewed by the MRCA generally as a positive development. However, experience has shown that this road is very dangerous to drive, as the slopes are very deep in certain areas. Winter driving is treacherous. Also, this stretch of road has proven to be a popular drag racing spot with many drivers - the nearly 2KM stretch has no stop signs, traffic calming tools or traffic lights. Many evenings in the summer are spent listening to squealing wheels and horns. The average speed generally exceeds 100K per hour as people careen along the straight, stopless road with impunity.

As Police records will show, there have been several serious accidents caused by excessive speeding on this road. In the summer of 2004, a speeding car lost control, veering off the pavement, crashing into one of our resident's backyards, narrowly missing a nearby swimming pool full of small children. Last week, a lady in a sedan was nearly killed as her car was flattened and sent off the road into a 20-foot ditch by a dump truck going too fast. There have been countless other accidents and "near misses" in this area.

We have been calling for support and assistance for months, and unfortunately, have been met only with lip service from our politicians and municipal and regional staff. We would really appreciate it if meaningful action be taken immediately to address our safety issues, before someone is killed. Please note:

- (1) Reduce Speed on Kirby (Dufferin to Keele) from 80KM to 60KM: We find it difficult to understand why the speed (which, it should be noted, is not even posted) is 80KM per hour. In fact, the speed limit for the rest of Kirby Road, starting Westbound at Keele Street, is 60KM. Consistency is urgently needed here. Under the 80KM limit, which we feel is inadequately enforced, the "real" practical speed limit is 100KM as people are often willing to take the chance and exceed the required limit. We urgently require the reduction of this speed limit to at least 60KM per hour.
- (2) Traffic Light at Dufferin and Keele Street: The MRCA has been lobbying the City and the Region for a long time for this traffic light. It should be noted that a traffic light was implemented at Keele Street and Kirby Road a few weeks ago, which has been extremely helpful, as that intersection was prone to a large number of "T-bone" accidents due to high speeds on Keele, poor lighting and bad sightlines. The traffic light at Dufferin and Kirby is a critical necessity. Traffic across Kirby has increased dramatically, especially given the very large residential developments in progress at Dufferin Street and Teston Road.
- (3) Stop Signs at Kirby Road and Foothills Road: As noted this road has no stop signs or other impediments for a long stretch. As a result, people are prone to excessive speeding. As cars travel Eastbound from Keele down the steep hill approaching Foothills Drive, they often pass cars turning onto Foothills in order to avoid them. There have been several "T-Bone" accidents at this corner, as turning out onto Kirby Road from Foothills is always a risky challenge. A stop sign would dramatically reduce this behaviour as it would draw drivers' attention to the need to slow down.

In short, we are counting on our elected representatives and other public servants to take decisive action now, so that tragic accidents can be avoided in our community, and to ensure that our children can roam our streets freely and safely. Our residents stand united in the view that meaningful change is urgently required.

We would appreciate hearing from each of you as soon as possible. Please direct your correspondence to my attention at lggrimaldi@symcor.com

Your prompt attention to this matter is appreciated.