

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – NOVEMBER 4, 2002**

### **ATKINSON AVENUE – CLARK AVENUE TO BATHURST STREET PROPOSED SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION**

#### **Recommendation**

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends:

That the posted speed limit on Atkinson Avenue from Clark Avenue to Bathurst Street outside the existing 40 km/h School Zones not be reduced to 40 km/h from 50 km/h.

#### **Purpose**

To review the existing speed limit on Atkinson Avenue between Clark Avenue and Bathurst Street.

#### **Background - Analysis and Options**

At the meeting on October 15, 2002, Council approved a recommendation that:

“Staff provide a report to the Committee of the Whole meeting of October 21, 2002, regarding the feasibility of reducing the speed limit to 40 km/h on Atkinson Avenue between Bathurst Street and Clark Avenue, and with recommendations on speed reductions and areas to which those reductions would apply.”

Atkinson Avenue is a four lane collector roadway with an existing statutory speed limit of 50 km/h except from Rosedale Heights Drive/Edmund Seager Drive intersection to Dundurn Crescent (south intersection) and from Campbell Avenue to Rodeo Drive where School Zones have been established and the speed limit is 40 km/h. To emphasize the 40 km/h School Zone speed limit, Engineering staff had installed “School Zone Speed Limit – 40 km/h” signs with flashing beacons and timers at two locations: Associated Hebrews School, located on the west side of Atkinson Avenue north of the Rosedale Heights Drive/Edmund Seager Drive intersection, and the Netivot Hebrew and Leo Baeck Schools, located on the west side of Atkinson Avenue between Campbell Avenue and Rodeo Drive.

Atkinson Avenue has been designated to accommodate traffic volumes up to 12,000 vehicles per day. There are sidewalks provided on both sides of the roadway and there are no residential driveways on Atkinson Avenue. Traffic signals are located at the intersections of Clark Avenue, Spring Gate Boulevard, Campbell Avenue, Centre Street, Rosedale Heights Drive/Edmund Seager Drive and Rosedale Heights Drive/Highcliffe Drive.

Staff conducted a review of the vehicle speeds on Atkinson Avenue. The results of the studies are indicated below.

South of Dundurn Crescent (south intersection) – 100 metres

<u>Direction</u>	<u>Average Speed</u>	<u>Compliance</u>
Northbound	58 km/h	18 %
Southbound	56 km/h	25 %

West of Dundurn Crescent (north intersection)

<u>Direction</u>	<u>Average Speed</u>	<u>Compliance</u>
Eastbound	54 km/h	23 %
Westbound	56 km/h	26 %

The above noted average speeds are comparable to other similar collector roadways within the City of Vaughan.

Staff reviewed the collision history for Atkinson Avenue. There were 7 reported collisions that occurred from January 1999 to August 2002. A summary of the collisions is listed below.

Bathurst Street to Centre Street

<u>Year</u>	<u># of Collisions</u>	<u>Type of Collision</u>
1999	2	loss of control
2000	3	loss of control
2001	1	loss of control
2002	1	loss of control

Centre Street to Clark Avenue

<u>Year</u>	<u># of Collisions</u>	<u>Type of Collision</u>
1999	6	4 rear end, one sideswipe, 1 school guard
2000	4	1 rear end, 1 sideswipe, 2 loss of control
2001	1	rear end
2002	0	N/A

Collector roads such as Atkinson Avenue are designed to accommodate relatively high traffic speeds and volumes, and it is expected that compliance with a 40 km/h speed limit would be low. Accordingly, it is recommended that the speed limit not be reduced. Should Council wish to reduce the speed limit on Atkinson Avenue, then the "School Zone Speed Limit" signs, flashing beacons and timers will need to be removed. The cost to remove the equipment is approximately \$2,400.00. The traffic signal equipment would no longer be required with a 40 km/h speed limit on this section of Atkinson Avenue as the main emphasis was to distinguish a School Zone speed limit from a statutory speed limit.

**Conclusion**

Based on our review, it is recommended that the speed limit not be reduced to 40 km/h on Atkinson Avenue from Bathurst Street to Clark Avenue outside the currently posted 40 km/h School Zones.

**Attachments**

1. Location Map

**Report prepared by**

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Respectfully submitted,

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Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works

# ATTACHMENT No. 1

