

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – MAY 5, 2003

ATHABASCA DRIVE TRAFFIC OPERATIONS

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends:

That 50 km/h speed limit signs be posted on Athabasca Drive west of Dufferin Street and on 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. Athabasca Drive 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 from the residents of Athabasca Drive and the surrounding area. The petition is included as Attachment No. 2.

Staff conducted radar speed studies on Athabasca Drive west of Dufferin Street on Thursday April 10, 2003. The times studied were 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. to assess the current operating speed of the roadway.

The results of the studies are indicated below.

	<u>Average Speed</u>	<u>Volume</u>
Morning Peak Period	44 km/h	32 Vehicles
Afternoon Peak Period	44 km/h	33 Vehicles

The results of the speed study 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 two (2) reportable collisions since 2000. Of these accidents one involved a vehicle and a pedestrian and resulted in a fatality. The driver was travelling 25 km/h with the sun in her eyes and did not see the pedestrian crossing the roadway.

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.

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 will arrange to have 50 km/h speed limit signs posted on Athabasca Drive and Beakes Crescent.

Conclusion

It is recommended that 50 km/h speed limit signs be posted on Athabasca Drive west of Dufferin Street, and on Beakes Crescent west of Dufferin Street.

Attachments

1. Location Map
2. Petition

Report prepared by

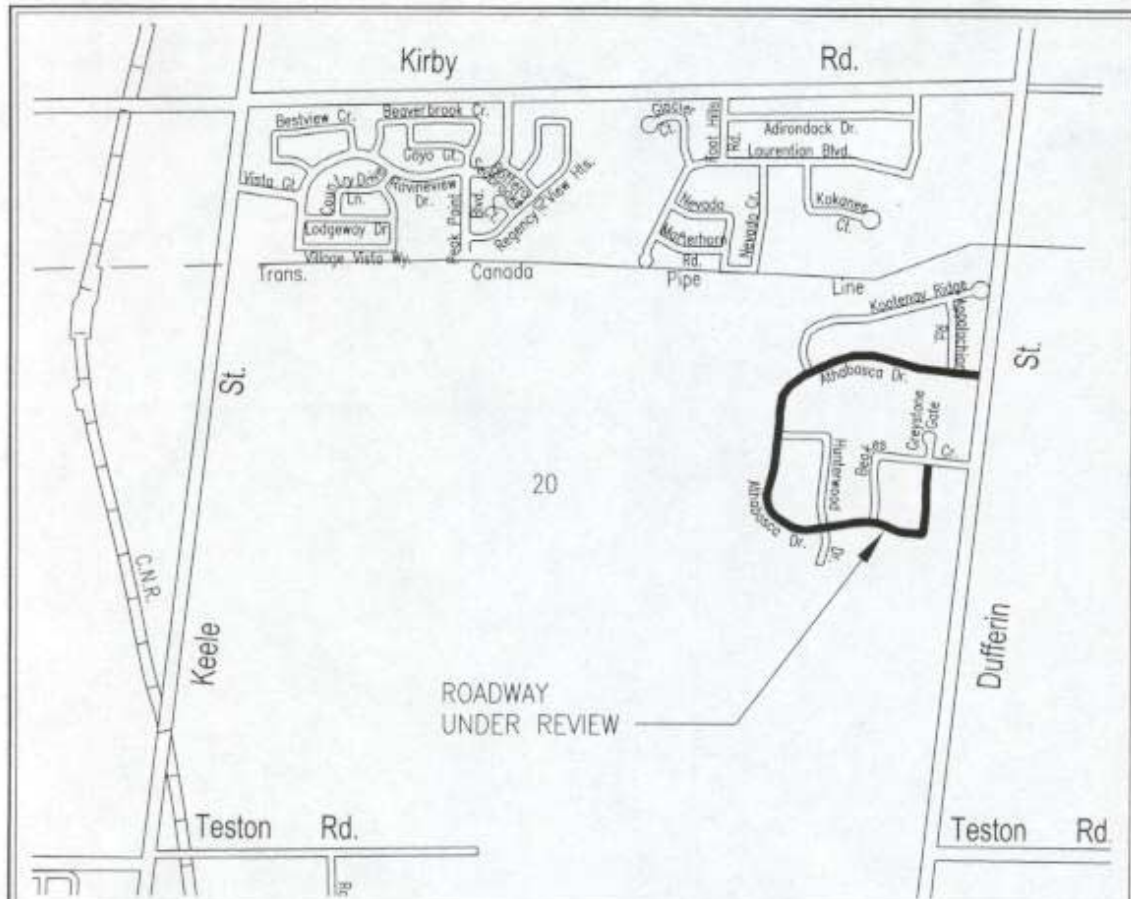
Jennifer Goetz, Transportation Analyst, ext 8674
Mike Dokman, Senior Transportation Technologist, ext. 8031
Phil Weber, Transportation Engineer, ext. 8264

Respectfully submitted,

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


JG/fc

ATTACHMENT No. 1



ATHABASCA DRIVE ROADWAY UNDER REVIEW

LEGEND

 SUBJECT ROADWAY



NOT TO SCALE



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.: 11

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**

