

Speed Limit Amendment - Burnhamthorpe Road

Date: March 19, 2024

To: Etobicoke York Community Council

From: Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 3 - Etobicoke-Lakeshore

SUMMARY

As the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates a transit service on Burnhamthorpe Road, City Council approval of this report is required.

Transportation Services has reviewed the need for a 40 km/h speed limit on Burnhamthorpe Road between Kipling Avenue and Dundas Street West. Based on the assessment undertaken, Transportation Services does not recommend reducing the speed limit from 50 km/h to 40 km/h, as the warrant criteria was not met.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council not authorize reducing the speed limit from 50 km/h to 40 km/h on Burnhamthorpe Road between Kipling Avenue and Dundas Street West.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact resulting from the adoption of the recommendation in this report.

If Etobicoke York Community Council amends the recommendation in this report and designates the speed limit on Burnhamthorpe Road between Kipling Avenue and Dundas Street West be reduced from 50 km/h to 40 km/h, the estimated cost associated with the amendment is \$1,500. Funding would be subject to availability and competing priorities within the Transportation Services 2024 Operating Budget

DECISION HISTORY

Etobicoke York Community Council, at its meeting on February 26, 2024, adopted Item EY11.13 entitled "Speed Reduction on Burnhamthorpe Road between Kipling Avenue and Dundas Street West", requesting the Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services, to investigate the feasibility of reducing the speed limit to 40km/h on Burnhamthorpe Road between Dundas Street West and Kipling Avenue, and report back to the April 8, 2024, meeting of Etobicoke York Community Council.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.EY11.13>

COMMENTS

By way of Councillors Motion, Etobicoke York Community Council requested, Transportation Services investigate the feasibility of reducing the speed limit on Burnhamthorpe Road between Kipling Avenue and Dundas Street West from 50 km/h to 40 km/h.

Transportation Services has recently implemented the following action on the subject section of Burnhamthorpe Road:

- Installation of traffic control signals at Burnhamthorpe Road and Burnhamthorpe Park Boulevard/Holloway Road
- Installation of a Community Safety Zone
- "Watch your speed" driver feedback signs
- Automated Speed Enforcement (November 2022 to June 2023)
- Enhanced pavement markings consisting of a solid white line through the curvilinear section (i.e. where lane changes are discouraged) to provide additional guidance through the curves.
- Edge line markings for this corridor to increase driver's perception of the edge of the travel lane and provide definition of the lane.

In addition, a review was conducted for Burnhamthorpe Road between Kipling Avenue and Dundas Street West to determine if converting from a four-lane roadway to a three-lane roadway, consisting of two through lanes and a centre two-way left turn lane was feasible. This is not a generally accepted practice for high volume arterial roadways such as Burnhamthorpe Road. Reducing the number of lanes on Burnhamthorpe Road would result in significantly more congestion, delays and vehicle queuing and may, in turn, divert motorists to adjoining local roadways, which are not designed to accommodate this traffic.

Existing Conditions

Burnhamthorpe Road is characterized by the following conditions:

- It is a four-lane, east-west, major arterial roadway
- It operates two-way traffic on a pavement width of approximately 14 metres
- The daily two-way traffic volume is approximately 23,000 vehicles

- The speed limit is 50 km/h
- Heavy trucks are prohibited from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
- There is TTC service provided by the "50 Burnhamthorpe" bus route
- There are sidewalks located on both sides of the street
- Guiderail is installed on both sides of the street through the majority of the curved section of road
- Winding Road warning signs with 30 km/h advisory speeds and flashing beacons are present for both directions in advance of the curves in the road
- Designated as a Community Safety Zone signs installed
- School area signs installed in the area of the recently opened private school, north of Dundas Street West
- The section of Burnhamthorpe Road from just north of Dundas Street West to just southeast of Burnhamthorpe Park Boulevard/Holloway Road includes a series of curves with an advisory speed of 30 km/h.
- The intersection of Burnhamthorpe Road and Burnhamthorpe Park Boulevard/Holloway Road is controlled by traffic control signals.
- There are eastbound and westbound bus stops on Burnhamthorpe Road at Burnhamthorpe Park Boulevard/Holloway Road.
- The adjacent land use in the area is residential (single and multi-unit dwellings).

A map of the area is included in Attachment 1.

Study Results

A speed and volume study was conducted on Burnhamthorpe Road, west of Holloway Avenue in October 2021. The traffic study results reveal that the 85th percentile speed was 64.9 km/h. The 85th percentile speed is the vehicle operating speed at or below which 85 per cent of all traffic is moving. In addition, we recorded a 24-hour traffic volume of 22,843 vehicles.

In order for a 40 km/h speed limit to be warranted on a roadway, established criteria must be satisfied. The warrants consist of three components, including: roadway width, pedestrian environment and road and traffic environment. Details of the warrant criteria are included in Attachment 1

Collision history provided by the Toronto Police Service for the ten-year period ending June 2022, disclosed that 24 reported collisions occurred within the subject road section.

Based on the study results, the technical warrants to reduce the speed limit have not been satisfied. Therefore, Transportation Services does not recommend that the speed limit be reduced from 50 km/h to 40 km/h, on Burnhamthorpe Road between Kipling Avenue and Dundas Street West.

The Ward Councillor has been advised of the recommendation of this staff report.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Roger Browne, M.A.Sc., P. Eng.
Director, Traffic Management, Transportation Services

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Map - Speed Limit Amendment - Burnhamthorpe Road - Kipling Avenue to Dundas Street West

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