

## REPORT

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

MEETING DATE: DECEMBER 7, 2015

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**FROM:** Engineering and Construction Department

**DATE:** October 29, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Traffic Calming on Munn's Avenue – Update

**LOCATION:** Munn's Avenue

**WARD:** 5

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### RECOMMENDATION:

That the report entitled "*Traffic Calming on Munn's Avenue - Update*" from the Engineering and Construction department, dated October 29, 2015, be received.

### KEY FACTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- Munn's Avenue received physical traffic calming measures in the form of rubber speed cushions in 2010.
- The rubber cushions were scheduled to be converted to concrete speed cushions in 2014.
- In July 2014, staff received a petition requesting removal or relocation of the western set of rubber speed cushions.
- Council directed to report back on options for traffic calming on Munn's Avenue.
- Staff provided a report to Community Services Committee on May 19, 2015, recommending that concrete speed cushions were the most effective and appropriate traffic calming measure for Munn's Avenue.
- In response to this recommendation, Council approved a recommendation that the matter be referred back to staff for further consultation with the residents.
- The result of this consultation is outlined in this report.

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## BACKGROUND:

Munn's Avenue received physical traffic calming measures, in front of River Oaks Public School, in the form of two sets of rubber speed cushions and flexible bollards, as a part of the 2010 Traffic Calming Program. This was the last location due to be converted from rubber to concrete speed cushions. This work was scheduled to be implemented during 2014 Traffic Calming Program.

In July 2014, after meeting with the area residents, staff received a petitions requesting removal or relocation of the western set of rubber speed cushions.

As a result, at its meeting of September 22, 2014, Oakville Council provided the following direction to staff:

*That staff be requested to report back to Council on options for traffic calming on Munn's Avenue fronting River Oaks public school from River Oaks Boulevard West to Margot Street, to maintain student safety, curb speeding and lessen noise pollution, with options including, but not limited to a reduction in the number of speed cushions.*

In addressing Council's direction, staff presented a report to Community Services Committee (CSC) at its meeting of May 19, 2015 outlining several traffic calming options and their applicability for Munn's Avenue. After careful consideration, staff recommended that the most effective and appropriate form of traffic calming for the road, which includes a school zone, is through the use of speed cushions. It was furthermore indicated that the concrete speed cushions are considerably less noisy than their rubber counterparts.

The report presented to CSC at its meeting of May 19, 2015 is attached as Appendix A. In response to the report, Council approved the following recommendation:

*That traffic calming on Munn's Avenue at River Oaks public school be referred back to staff for further consultation with the residents.*

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on this consultation.

## COMMENT/OPTIONS:

### Traffic Calming Discussion

Staff had a follow-up meeting with the affected stakeholders of Munn's Avenue and the ward Councillor on August 25, 2015. The intent of the meeting was to further

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examine outlined traffic calming options in the report previously presented to Community Services Committee.

The stakeholders were advised that the most of the elementary school zones have been retrofitted with either concrete speed cushions or raised barrier medians. The following traffic calming alternatives were discussed in greater detail:

#### Vertical Deflection Devices

- Raised crosswalks
- Raised intersections

#### Horizontal Deflection Devices

- Chicanes
- Raised median islands
- Curb extensions
- Roundabouts

#### Non Physical Devices

- Radar speed display signs

After further clarification on the applicability of the alternative traffic calming devices for Munn's Avenue and rationalizing assessments involving noise level comparison between rubber and concrete speed cushions, it was agreed that the concrete speed cushions would be the most desirable traffic calming option for Munn's Avenue in front of River Oaks public school.

Since the school year was quickly approaching, staff proceeded to re-install the rubber speed cushions in time for the school year as an interim measure during the autumn months. As per town practice, the rubber cushions will be removed during the winter season and re-installed in the spring. Permanent concrete speed cushions will be implemented during the summer months of 2016.

#### Other Concerns

Residents raised several other concerns relating to sightlines and traffic signage around existing speed cushion locations as well as concerns related to the traffic signal operation at surrounding intersections. A summary of concerns and corresponding responses/ actions are outlined in Appendix B.

### **CONSIDERATIONS:**

#### **(A) PUBLIC**

Ward 5 Councillors, the Principal of River Oaks P.S., and the stakeholders of the school catchment area were notified of this report.

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**(B) FINANCIAL**

A cost of installing concrete speed cushions in 2016 will reflect the Traffic Calming capital budget. Other costs including advisory signage and flexible bollards will be secured through the Road and Works operating budget.

**(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS**

Roads and Works Operations currently maintain existing speed cushion locations and will assume the ongoing maintenance of the cushions on Munn's Avenue.

**(D) CORPORATE AND/OR DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC GOALS**

This report addresses the corporate strategic goal to:

- enhance our natural environment
- have environmentally sustainable programs/services
- continuously improve our programs and services

**(E) COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY**

The safe operation of our roadways and intersections is an important facet to the social pillar of community sustainability.

**APPENDICES:**

Appendix A: Staff Report – Traffic Calming on Munn's Avenue at River Oaks PS

Appendix B: Additional traffic related concerns on Munn's Avenue

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