



Staff Report for Committee of the Whole Meeting

Date of Meeting: October 2, 2019

Report Number: SRPRS.19.146

Department: Planning and Regulatory Services
Division: Development Engineering & Transportation

Subject: **SRPRS.19.146 – Lourakis Street Traffic Petition**

Purpose:

To address a petition received from residents on Lourakis Street regarding vehicle travel speeds and a request for speed bumps on Lourakis Street.

Recommendation(s):

- a) That the petition as Attachment 1 to SRPRS.19.146 be received;
- b) That oversize STOP signs (75 cm x 75 cm) with ALL-WAY tab signs and appropriate pavement markings be installed on all approaches to the Lourakis Street and Jefferson Sideroad intersection; and
- c) That STOP AHEAD warning signs be installed on the east and west approaches to the Jefferson Sideroad and Lourakis Street intersection.

Contact Person:

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Report Approval:

Submitted by: Kelvin Kwan, Commissioner of Planning and Regulatory Services

Approved by: Neil Garbe, City Manager

All reports are electronically reviewed and/or approved by the Division Director, Treasurer (as required), City Solicitor (as required), Commissioner and City Manager. Details of the reports approval are attached.

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Background:

A petition from residents of Lourakis Street dated April 12, 2019, (Attachment 1) was received by staff through the local Councillor's office. The petition expressed concerns with speeding, pedestrian safety and requested "speed bumps" on Lourakis Street. The petition was signed by 81% of the property owners fronting onto Lourakis Street citing an accident involving a child and pedestrian safety. The petition meets the City's traffic calming process threshold of 75% for the Development Engineering and Transportation Division staff to assess the traffic calming measures.

Staff have undertaken a review of traffic and safety conditions in response to this petition. The findings and recommendations are presented below.

Road Characteristics

Lourakis Street is a north-south residential road that extends from Jefferson Sideroad to Milos Road. It has been built with a geometric road standard to support the 50 km/h speed limit, which is the typical operating speed of City roads and the default speed limit set out by the Province in the Highway Traffic Act. Lourakis Street has a 23 metre right-of-way and 9.75 metre pavement width from Jefferson Sideroad to Township Avenue with sidewalks along both sides of the road. The rest of Lourakis Street, from Township Avenue to Milos Road, has a 20 metre right-of-way and 8.5 metre pavement width with sidewalks on the east side of the road.

Traffic along Lourakis Street is controlled by three all-way stop intersections while the remaining three intersections are controlled by stop signs on side roads. Attachment 2 illustrates the traffic control devices along Lourakis Street. The entire stretch of Lourakis Street is straight and there is sufficient visibility and stopping sightline distance for drivers to make necessary stops at the default speed limit.

York Region Transit does not have transit routes along Lourakis Street and there are no bicycle facilities along this road.

Review of Traffic Conditions

The relative need and priority of the speed bump consideration is based on a technical assessment of traffic volumes, vehicle speed percentages, speed-related collisions, and area context (e.g., the presence of schools, parks, seniors' residence or bicycle routes). Transportation staff conducted a mid-block speed and volume study on Lourakis Street between Jefferson Sideroad and Township Avenue from June 21 - 25, 2019. Staff also analyzed the collision history and roadway geometry for the subject road.

The findings of these investigations are summarized below, along with staff recommendations.

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Traffic Volume Observations

The traffic data on Lourakis Street indicates a minimum volume of 1,389 vehicles per day on June 21, 2019, and a maximum volume of 2,348 vehicles per day on June 24, 2019. This traffic volume is within the typical traffic volumes for an urban local road in accordance with the Geometric Design Guide for Canadian Roads of the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC).

Vehicle Speed Observations

The analysis of mid-block speeds revealed that the 85th percentile vehicular operating speed is 49 km/h while the average speed is 42 km/h. Drivers' compliance of the speed limit is 92%. Attachment 3 provides a summary of the analysis along with the speed-frequency plot. These results are considered reasonable for a local road with a default maximum 50 km/h speed limit.

Roadway Collisions Review

Staff carried out a review of the mid-block collision history for Lourakis Street and found that there was only one (1) reported collision over the ten-year period. The reported incident cited in the petition occurred on February 23, 2019. It involved a child and a southbound vehicle. According to the police report, a seven (7) year old child ran onto roadway in front of a vehicle. The driver of the vehicle was driving properly and the speed of the vehicle was at or below the speed limit of 50 km/h. The collision was classified as a non-fatal injury type collision. No charges were laid as the child was deemed at fault.

The collision did not appear to be related to speed compliance, visibility restrictions, or geometric design of the roadway. The petition contained information that could not be corroborated by staff.

Since the location of the collision was about 50 metres north of the intersection of Lourakis Street and Jefferson Sideroad, staff decided to also review the collision history of the intersection. There were 11 reported collisions at the subject intersection during the past ten-year and nine (9) of those collisions were due to drivers' disobeying the stop signs.

Considering the above findings, staff recommends making the stop signs more visible by installing oversize STOP signs on all approaches of the Lourakis Street and Jefferson Sideroad intersection with STOP AHEAD signs on Jefferson Sideroad.

Traffic Calming Device Consideration

The petition from the residents recommended the installation of speed bumps to reduce vehicle speed on Lourakis Street. However, based a review and assessment of the recently collected traffic data on vehicle speed and volumes, staff do not recommend any physical traffic calming measures such as speed bumps be implemented along Lourakis Street at this time as there appears to be general compliance with the speed

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limit. The installation of speed bumps is generally discouraged as they impact the efficient movement of emergency vehicles (such as fire, ambulance and police) and transit vehicles and have negative implications to winter maintenance services.

To further enhance the visibility of the intersection and accommodate vulnerable pedestrians in the area, staff recommend the installation of oversize STOP signs and enhance pedestrian crosswalk at all approaches of Lourakis Street and Jefferson Sideroad intersection.

Staff will continue to monitor the subject roadway and further options would be considered in the future should they be warranted. This may include traffic signals at the Lourakis Street and Jefferson Sideroad intersection when traffic warrants and criteria are met.

Financial/Staffing/Other Implications:

Staff estimate that four oversize STOP signs and pavement markings for the intersection of Lourakis Street and Jefferson Sideroad and two STOP AHEAD signs on Jefferson Sideroad will cost about \$2,000. The funding for the estimated amount is recommended to come from the approved Roads Operations 2019 operating budget of the Community Services Department.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan:

The recommendations of staff report SRPRS.19.146 are consistent with the Strategic Plan's Objective of "responding to the changing needs of the community through adaptive services and programs" and "improve the function of buildings, streets and neighbourhoods".

Conclusion:

Staff completed a traffic operations and safety review in response to a petition received from residents requesting speed bumps on Lourakis Street. Based on the assessment, staff found that there is reasonable compliance to the speed limit on Lourakis Street and staff do not recommend the installation of speed bumps on Lourakis Street at this time.

However, staff recommend the installation of oversize STOP signs and pavement markings for pedestrians at the intersection of Lourakis Street and Jefferson Sideroad along with STOP AHEAD signs on Jefferson Sideroad to improve drivers' awareness and compliance of stop signs.

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Attachments:

The following attached documents may include scanned images of appendixes, maps and photographs. If you require an alternative format please call the contact person listed in this document.

- Attachment 1: Lourakis Street Residents Petition for Speed Humps
- Attachment 2: Area Road Network and Intersection Traffic Control Devices
- Attachment 3: Lourakis Street Speed Study Results

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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	SRPRS.19.146 - Lourakis Street Traffic Petition.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment 1.pdf - Attachment 2.pdf - Attachment 3.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Sep 23, 2019

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Dan Terzievski - Sep 20, 2019 - 12:04 PM

Kelvin Kwan - Sep 20, 2019 - 1:30 PM

David Dexter - Sep 20, 2019 - 2:18 PM

Neil Garbe - Sep 23, 2019 - 9:48 AM