



Staff Report for Council Meeting

Date of Meeting: October 27, 2021

Report Number: SRPI.21.086

Department: Planning and Infrastructure Department

Division: Infrastructure and Engineering Services

Subject: Ward 1 – Traffic Calming Review in Response to Resident Petition on Olde Bayview Avenue

Purpose:

To seek Council approval to implement traffic calming measures on Olde Bayview Avenue, south of North Lake Road.

Recommendation(s):

- a) That Council receive Staff Report SRPI.21.086, entitled “Ward 1 – Traffic Calming Review in Response to Resident Petition on Olde Bayview Avenue”;
- b) That Council approve the request to make improvements to parking regulations, to make a change to the City’s speed regulation (reducing to 40 km/h), and install to signage and pavement markings on Olde Bayview Avenue, south of North Lake Road, as described in Staff Report SRPI.21.086;
- c) That By-law No. 131-21 (**Attachment 3 to Staff Report SRPI.21.086**) be enacted to amend Schedule “A” and Schedule “B” of Municipal Code Chapter 1116 in order to amend parking regulations; and
- d) That By-law No. 141-21 (**Attachment 4 to Staff Report SRPI.21.086**) be enacted to amend Schedule “A” of Municipal Code Chapter 1126 in order to reduce the speed limit on Olde Bayview Avenue from North Lake Road to the south end of the cul-de-sac to 40 km/hour.

Contact Person:

Hubert Ng, Manager of Transportation and Traffic, 905-771-6501

Ben Robertson, Supervisor, Traffic Safety and Operations, 905-771-6455

Report Approval:

Submitted by: Kelvin Kwan, Commissioner of Planning and Infrastructure

Approved by: Mary-Anne Dempster, City Manager

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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.

Background:

The City has received a petition from the residents (Attachment 1) requesting the implementation of traffic calming measures along Olde Bayview Avenue.

Staff received a request from the residents of Olde Bayview Avenue to address traffic safety and parking-related concerns along Olde Bayview Avenue, from North Lake Road to the south end of the cul-de-sac, originating from the use of the road by patrons accessing Lake Wilcox Park.

The concerns identified by the residents include excessive speeds and aggressive maneuvers, unsafe pedestrian and driver behaviour, and parking prohibition violations combined with pedestrian traffic walking on the roadway in order to maintain physical distancing as a COVID-19 prevention measure. **Figure 1** (in the **Site Context** section of this report) provides an illustration of the site.

Site Context

Olde Bayview Avenue is a local road, which extends from 480 metres north and 210 metres south of North Lake Road. Traffic is controlled at North Lake Road by Stop signs (vehicles travelling east-west along North Lake Road have the right-of-way). Olde Bayview Avenue has a default speed limit of 50 km/h and one travel lane in each direction. Parking is prohibited on both sides of the road between North Lake Road and the south limit (the subject portion). The portion of Olde Bayview Avenue that is the subject of this petition is the section south of North Lake Road.

While Lake Wilcox Park has a dedicated parking lot that can be accessed via the intersection of Bayview Avenue and Bethesda Side Road, there are pedestrian accesses at the south end of Olde Bayview Avenue which generate vehicular traffic associated with pick-up/drop-off activities. Additionally, Olde Bayview Avenue also provides vehicular access to the 'Olde Bayview Avenue Parking Lot' for Lake Wilcox Park, just south of North Lake Road (opposite Lakeside Crescent), and to the Richmond Hill Canoe club, immediately adjacent to the Lake Wilcox Park pedestrian access.

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Figure 1: Olde Bayview Avenue, Lake Wilcox Park Access and Other Notable Features

Analysis and Findings

As part of the road safety and traffic operations assessment, City staff undertook data collection and field investigations over typically-busy periods in the summer and fall in order to observe the subject area during the highest-utilized times. Traffic data was recorded using Automatic Traffic Recorders (ATRs) and road user behaviour was observed and assessed.

The result of the study identified that:

- **Significant volumes of pedestrians, cyclists and vehicular traffic** use Olde Bayview Avenue during busy periods to access Lake Wilcox Park, the Lake Wilcox Parking Lot, and to do drop-off and pick-ups in the cul-de-sac;
- **Low road user travel speeds on Olde Bayview Avenue**, with nearly all (99%) road users travelling at less than 50 km/h – the speed limit of the road;
- **Drivers are crossing the centre of the roadway** to avoid pedestrians using the travelled portion of the road;
- **Pedestrians and cyclists are cutting directly through the cul-de-sac** to access Lake Wilcox Park; and
- **Improper parking and/or pick-up/drop-off activity is occurring in the cul-de-sac**, including illegal parking and stopping in the cul-de-sac, resulting in full obstructions and conflicts within this area at times.

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Based on the findings from the study, most drivers are travelling at expected and appropriate speeds.

Compliance with the 50 km/h speed limit is 99%, and more than 90% of drivers travel at less than 40 km/h. Although some vehicles were recorded at excessive speed, these are a very small proportion of total traffic and are better-addressed via enforcement rather than engineering measures. Therefore, Staff do not recommend more intrusive traffic calming measures, such as speed bumps or speed cushions. **Reducing the regulatory speed limit to 40 km/h is recommended in order to raise awareness of, and to help promote, the low-speed nature of the subject portion of Olde Bayview Avenue; given observed pedestrian and cycling volumes and their interaction with, and impact on, vehicular road users; and, to aid enforcement efforts of drivers travelling at excessive speeds.**

A list of feasible countermeasures to help mitigate other identified safety issues (including vehicles crossing onto the opposing travel lane, pedestrians and cyclists on the roadway within the cul-de-sac, and parking violations) with the intent of better organize the flow of different road users, and providing an traffic calming effect. These proposed measures are presented in **Attachment 2** and include:

- **Implementing a ‘NO PARKING’ and designated ‘PICK-UP/DROP-OFF’ zone at the south end of the subject Olde Bayview Avenue cul-de-sac** in order to create a well defined designated zone for improved boarding and alighting activities for park-access patrons as well as more orderly traffic, pedestrian, and cyclist flow, while supporting by-law enforcement activities to prohibit illegal parking in this area;
- **Replacing the existing ‘NO PARKING’ Regulatory restriction with a ‘NO STOPPING’ Regulatory restriction along the entire subject portion of Olde Bayview Avenue**, from North Lake Road to the south end and through the cul-de-sac (apart from the area occupied by the aforementioned ‘NO PARKING’/ ‘PICK-UP/DROP-OFF’ zone), in order to help direct drop-off and pick-up activities to the designated area and help support by-law enforcement activities; and
- **Installing signage and pavement marking improvements** on the subject portion of Olde Bayview Avenue to provide clear separation of road users, provide positive and clear messaging, and to help promote the low-speed nature of the subject portion of Olde Bayview Avenue.

The residents have been consulted on the proposed countermeasures and were satisfied with the proposed improvements.

Staff met with the residents, on August 16th, 2021, to present the findings of the assessment and staff recommendations. Residents were satisfied with the proposed improvements in response to their petition. The countermeasures are described in this report (with existing conditions for comparison), and are illustrated in **Attachment 2**.

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Financial/Staffing/Other Implications:

The cost to supply and install the new signage and pavement markings is estimated to be approximately \$5,000.00. There is provision within the Community Services Department Operating Budget to accommodate this scope of work. As such there are no further financial implications associated with this report.

Relationship to Council’s Strategic Priorities 2020-2022:

The recommendation of this report is consistent with the Council’s Strategic Priorities to create a “Strong Sense of Belonging” and to facilitate “Getting Around the City” through promotion of a safe road environment for all users through the implementation of signage and pavement markings. The noted improvements are expected to provide road users with the information they require to traverse the road in a safer manor.

Climate Change Considerations:

The proposed traffic management measures can contribute to climate change mitigation by better organizing the flow of traffic, reducing vehicle speeds and idling times, further promoting other mobility options (walking, cycling) through the provision of safe active transportation facilities, and, consequently, reducing carbon emissions in the air.

Conclusion:

To address the residents’ concerns and request for the implementation of traffic calming measures, Staff are seeking Council approval to make improvements to parking regulations and the City’s speed regulation, and to install signage and pavement markings on Olde Bayview Avenue, south of North Lake Road. The improvements are expected to ensure the orderly movement of all-road users, improve safety, and promote the low-speed nature of Olde Bayview Avenue.

Attachments:

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

- **Attachment 1:** Resident Petition Requesting Traffic Calming on Olde Bayview Ave
- **Attachment 2:** Recommended Feasible Countermeasures
- **Attachment 3:** Proposed Draft By-law 131-21
- **Attachment 4:** Proposed Draft By-law 141-21

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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	SRPI.21.086 Ward 1 – Traffic Calming Review in Response to Resident Petition on Olde Bayview Avenue.docx
Attachments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- SRPI.21.086 Attachment 1 - Resident Petition Requesting Traffic Calming on Olde Bayview Ave.docx- SRPI.21.086 Attachment 2 - Recommended Feasible Countermeasures.docx- SRPI.21.086 Attachment 3 - Proposed Draft By-law 131-21.docx- SRPI.21.086 Attachment 4 - Proposed Draft By-law 141-21.docx
Final Approval Date:	Oct 1, 2021

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

Dan Terzievski - Oct 1, 2021 - 8:44 AM

Paolo Masaro - Oct 1, 2021 - 9:28 AM

Kelvin Kwan - Oct 1, 2021 - 10:55 AM

MaryAnne Dempster - Oct 1, 2021 - 11:09 AM