



REPORT

TO: Mayor Bonnette and Members of Council

FROM: Roumen Kotev, Traffic Coordinator – Road Safety

DATE: October 8, 2021

REPORT NO.: TPW-2021-0027

SUBJECT: Churchill Road North Neighbourhood Traffic Calming

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. TPW-2021-0027, dated October 8, 2021, regarding the Churchill Road North Neighbourhood Traffic Calming be received;

AND FURTHER THAT the proposed traffic calming measures identified within the Churchill Road North Neighbourhood Calming Report be implemented.

KEY POINTS:

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

- Speeding on Churchill Road North has been an on-going concern with area residents.
- A road safety review determined that traffic calming measures are warranted.
- A Traffic Calming Plan was developed which included a combination of both intrusive and non-intrusive traffic calming measures for the Churchill Road North neighbourhood.
- Staff engaged the area residents on the proposed traffic calming plan and received feedback.
- The recommended Traffic Calming Plan is illustrated in Attachment 1.
- Once approved by Council, the traffic calming measures are anticipated to be implemented in Q2 of 2022.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

Staff have been engaged with residents over the last few years to discuss speeding concerns on Churchill Road North. This resulted in the initiation of a full road safety review within the study area which included extensive data collection and analysis.

Based on the results of the analysis, it was determined that traffic calming measures are warranted in the Churchill Road North area.

Report No. TPW-2019-0004 provided a new Traffic Calming Implementation Protocol to ensure its effectiveness based on community needs, changing technology, and current industry practices. The protocol provides an overall neighbourhood traffic calming approach to be considered and to ensure that all roads within the area are reviewed and evaluated to determine the appropriate traffic calming measures. The neighbourhood approach also benefits the objective of educating the community and enhancing personal accountability related to speeding and aggressive driving.

The Churchill Road North Neighbourhood Traffic Calming project was included in the 2021 Traffic Engineering Work Plan and incorporates the new Traffic Calming Implementation Protocol.

A number of studies were undertaken to assess the need for traffic calming on Churchill Road North. The traffic calming protocol indicates that Conditions 1 and 2 of the screening process criterion must be satisfied which considers the percentage of infiltration of traffic, the threshold for posted speed versus the operating speed and the total volume on the roadway. Once both conditions are satisfied, either intrusive or non-intrusive traffic calming measures are warranted.

Churchill Road North satisfies the requirements of the screening process. The infiltration traffic exceeds 30% as this road is a north connector in and out of Acton and Halton Hills. The posted speed limit between Tanners Drive and McDonald Boulevard is 40 km/h, and the operating speed is 60 km/h which is well over the acceptable threshold.

As indicated in the Traffic Calming Implementation Protocol, a neighbourhood approach was taken to ensure that all roads within the area were reviewed and evaluated. This included the following roads within the neighbourhood:

- Churchill Road North between Tanners Drive and Third Line
- Tanners Drive between Churchill Road North and Somerville Road
- Norman Avenue
- Cedar Road
- McDonald Boulevard between Acton Boulevard and Churchill Road North
- Lasby Lane
- Trinity Court

Staff are recommending both non-intrusive and intrusive traffic calming measures within the neighbourhood which are illustrated in Attachment 1. A summary of the detail traffic calming measures are as follows:

1. Installation of Speed Humps

Collector road type speed humps will be installed at three (3) locations on Churchill Road North: 1) immediately north of the Acton Curling Club; 2) 105 metres north of McDonald Boulevard, and; 3) between Cedar Road and Norman Avenue. All locations will be accompanied by speed hump warning signs. These speed humps will be strategically placed to ensure clear visibility from both directions and to reduce vehicular speeds as they are transitioning to the lower speed limits within the urban area on Churchill Road North.

A local road type speed hump will be installed on Cedar Road between Churchill Road North and the Acton District High School parking lot. This will reduce vehicular speeds entering the parking lot and enhance pedestrian safety at the intersection of Cedar Road and Somerville Road/Pearl Court.

2. Pavement Markings Enhancements

Painted edge lines will be installed on the east and west side of Churchill Road North from Tanners Drive to a point approximately 45m south of Lasby Lane. This will clearly mark that parking is only allowed on the east side of Churchill Road North. It will also provide further separation between southbound traffic and multi-use pathway users on the west side of Churchill Road North. These changes will also reduce the northbound travel lane width to 3.3m to encourage a slower operating speed.

Ladder crosswalk markings will be installed at the intersection of Churchill Road North and McDonald Boulevard. This enhancement will provide additional visibility of the intersection which is utilized by many students that attend the two schools located in close proximity.

A 15m yellow tail on Norman Avenue will be installed to provide more positive guidance to motorists on approach to Churchill Road North. In addition, all existing pavement markings will be repainted.

3. Enhanced Signage

“Traffic Calmed Neighbourhood” signs will be installed on Churchill Road North at the north and south ends of the study area, to notify approaching vehicles of the conditions ahead. In addition, an oversized “50 km/h BEGINS” sign will be installed on Third Line to replace the existing “50 km/h BEGINS” sign. The oversized sign will bring more driver awareness to the speed limit change as vehicles enter the urban area of Acton.

4. Flexible Bollards

The installation of “Flexible Bollards” will be implemented on Churchill Road North approximately 30m south of Norman Avenue, on the centre line and edge lines. This

will reduce the operating speeds and provide a safer environment for pedestrians who choose to cross Churchill Road North at that location. Flexible Bollards are removed for winter maintenance in the fall and are reinstalled in the spring.

Based on the study results and public feedback, staff recommends the implementation of the proposed intrusive and non-intrusive traffic calming measures within the Churchill Road North Neighbourhood study area as indicated in Attachment 1. Once approved by Council, it is anticipated that this work will be implemented in Q2 of 2022.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This report aligns to the Town's Strategic plan recognizing the value to foster a healthy community that provides a clean environment and range of economic and social opportunities to ensure a superior quality of life in our community.

This report also identifies transportation as one of the Town's Strategic priorities.

RELATIONSHIP TO CLIMATE CHANGE:

Public Engagement has been conducted as follows: Hand delivered letters to all study area residents, Virtual PIC on the Let's Talk Halton Hills Platform, as well as one month of public consultation on Let's talk Halton Hills.

On June 8, 2021, the Let's Talk Halton Hills platform was launched to provide all interested residents with the proposed Churchill Road North Neighbourhood traffic calming measures. This platform provided residents with the option of reviewing all relevant materials on-line, listen to a pre-recorded public information session, obtaining answers to their questions, and providing feedback. All feedback was accepted until July 6, 2021.

The project had 60 visitors on the Let's Talk Halton Hills Project page and staff received 8 questions and comments from registered constituents.

Staff have advised the area residents of the proposed recommendation report and Council meeting for their information through hand delivered letters and the "let's Talk Halton Hills" project page. An updated notification letter will be hand delivered to all affected residents along with an update to the "Let's Talk Halton Hills" project page advising on Councils' decision on the recommendation report.

INTERNAL CONSULTATION:

This Report was discussed internally within the Transportation and Public Works Department and the Fire Department.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

This report will be funded through an existing approved budget source.

Reviewed and approved by,

Maureen Van Ravens, Director of Transportation

Bill Andrews, Commissioner of Transportation and Public Works

Chris Mills, Acting Chief Administrative Officer