



To: COUNCIL
Meeting Date: 4/15/2025
Subject: Old Mill Road Traffic Calming Plan
Submitted By: Leah Walter, Director of Engineering & Transportation
Prepared By: Shannon Noonan, Manager of Transportation
Report No.: 25-050-CD
File No.: C11
Wards Affected: Ward 1

RECOMMENDATION(S):

THAT Report 25-050-CD, Old Mill Road Traffic Calming Plan, be received;
AND THAT Council approve the alteration to Old Mill Road within the Blair Village Heritage Conservation District as outlined in report 25-050-CD, Old Mill Road Traffic Calming Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Purpose

This purpose of this report is to present to Council the proposed alterations to Old Mill Road within the Blair Village Heritage Conservation District which are needed to support traffic calming.

Key Findings

In consultation with the public and the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee, a Traffic Calming Plan for Old Mill Road has been prepared that balances the unique heritage of the area and resident concerns related to a new warehouse development at 140 Old Mill Road.

Financial Implications

There should be no financial implications to the City as the cost for implementing traffic calming measures on Old Mill Road are to be recovered from the developer as per the Site Plan Control Agreement for 140 Old Mill Road.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

Strategic Action

Objective(s): Not Applicable

Strategic Action: Not Applicable

OR

Core Service

Program: Transportation Management

Core Service: Traffic Operations

The implementation of the Traffic Calming Plan on Old Mill Road is intended to address resident traffic concerns while creating a safe and efficient transportation network for all users.

BACKGROUND:

As part of the planning application for the warehouse development located at 140 Old Mill Road, a Transportation Impact Study (TIS) was prepared and a subsequent peer review of the TIS was undertaken by the City.

In response to resident concerns about increased traffic volumes, potential safety issues and to limit the use of Old Mill Road between Blair Road and Dickie Settlement Road, the peer review recommended a two-phased approach including:

1. The Development of a traffic calming plan, in consultation with the community to encourage lower operating speeds, discourage cut-through traffic and reflect the area's designation as a Heritage Conservation District; and
2. A review of the effectiveness of traffic calming after one (1) year was also recommended to determine if further measures are required.

ANALYSIS:

Following Council approval of the planning application in 2022, including the TIS peer review recommendations, a consultant was retained to initiate the Old Mill Road Traffic Calming Assessment Study and develop a Traffic Calming Plan.

The intent of the Traffic Calming Plan was to address resident concerns related to warehouse employees and trucks using Old Mill Road as a cut-through route and speeding on Old Mill Road while also taking into consideration the unique heritage of the area.

After thorough review and consultation, a Traffic Calming Plan was developed that includes the following primary elements:

- A reduced turning radius at the intersections of Dickie Settlement Road and Blair Road using bollards. These bollards were suggested by the consultant to slow traffic as drivers enter the roadway as a larger radius allows for faster speeds;
- The existing 50km/h speed limit will be changed to a 40km/hr Neighbourhood Area Speed Limit;
- Four (4) asphalt speed cushions will be added along the corridor, this will include the required signage and pavement markings;
- A hidden driveway sign will be added near #110 Old Mill Road; and
- All other signs exist and will remain.

Complete details of the Traffic Calming Plan are shown in Appendix A.

The Traffic Calming Plan will be implemented this spring/summer and traffic studies will be conducted in 2026 to evaluate the effectiveness of the plan. Additionally, an all-way stop at the intersection of Old Mill Road at Meadowcreek Lane was previously approved by Council that will also be installed in the spring.

EXISTING POLICY / BY-LAW(S):

Blair Village Heritage Conservation District Plan

As per the Blair Village HCD, the goals for Old Mill Road are:

- To maintain the narrow paved width (21 ft.) and shoulders (8 ft.);
- Not to undertake road widening or installation of sidewalks, curbs, gutters, and streetlights. To finish in tar and chip;
- To conserve and extend the hedgerows and street trees through management and annual pruning; and,

- To identify the road with historic style street signs.

These goals along with the HIA were used when considering the unique heritage of the area while preparing the Traffic Calming Assessment Study and developing the Traffic Calming Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Conditions of the Site Plan Control Agreement for 140 Old Mill Road included a requirement for the developer to fund the installation and development of traffic calming measures along Old Mill Road, east of Dickie Settlement Road, and therefore impose no financial impact on the City.

The City has received an initial contribution for this work in the amount of \$100,000 which has been fully expended in developing the Traffic Calming Plan. The estimated cost for installing the traffic calming measures is \$50,000 which is to be recovered from the developer.

PUBLIC VALUE:

Transparency:

Sharing information, actively listening and responding to resident concerns while also considering Municipal Advisory Committee input demonstrates how feedback is considered when addressing matters related the transportation network

ADVISORY COMMITTEE INPUT:

Since Old Mill Road is considered the heart of the Blair Village Heritage Conservation District (Blair Village HCD), a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) was prepared in addition to the Traffic Calming Assessment Study and Traffic Calming Plan.

Both the HIA and Traffic Calming Plan were shared with the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee (MHAC) for review. The first consultation with MHAC occurred in July 2024 and as a result staff were requested to provide a visual concept plan for the proposed traffic calming. In December 2024, further consultation with the MHAC was undertaken and a more detailed traffic calming plan was provided. As a result of the December 5, 2024, MHAC meeting, the HIA and Traffic Calming Plan are being recommended for approval by the MHAC.

A copy of the December 5, 2024 MHAC agenda and report can be found using this link <https://calendar.cambridge.ca/Council/Detail/2024-12-05-1900-Municipal-Heritage-Advisory-Committee-MHAC/8008570f-a665-4192-acef-b2350159eb46>

PUBLIC INPUT:

In November 2023, a Public Information Centre (PIC) was held to present the findings of the Study and proposed traffic calming plan. Feedback from the PIC highlighted concerns about employees from the warehouse and trucks using Old Mill Road as a cut-through route and speeding on Old Mill Road with key comments including:

- General support for the proposed traffic calming
- Request for an All-way Stop at Old Mill Road and Meadowcreek Lane
- Suggestions to close Old Mill Road to through traffic.

As a result of public feedback, options for full and partial road closures were further explored by the consultant. These options were ultimately ruled out as they were not considered suitable solutions to achieve traffic calming, would increase operational costs, impose challenges on the delivery of emergency services, increase travel times for local residents, and were not supported from a heritage perspective.

INTERNAL / EXTERNAL CONSULTATION:

There was no internal/external consultation undertaken.

CONCLUSION:

Based on the details of this report, it is recommended that Council approve the staff recommendations as written.

REPORT IMPACTS:

Agreement: **No**

By-law: **No**

Budget Amendment: **No**

Policy: **No**

APPROVALS:

This report has gone through the appropriate workflow and has been reviewed and or approved by the following as required:

Director

Deputy City Manager

Chief Financial Officer

City Solicitor

City Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 25-050-CD Appendix A – Proposed Traffic Calming Plan