



memorandum

Communication : C 9
Committee of the Whole (2)
June 8, 2021
Item : Presentation 1

DATE: June 7, 2021

TO: Honourable Mayor and Members of Council

FROM: Nadia Paladino for Zoran Postic, Deputy City Manager of Public Works
 Nick Spensieri, Deputy City Manager of Infrastructure Development

RE: **Committee of the Whole (2), June 8, 2021**
 Presentation #1 - Ms. Beverley Golden

Purpose

To provide information regarding the request by Ms. Beverley Golden (the deputant) to deactivate the 24/7 audible locator tone on the accessible pedestrian push buttons at the Pedestrian Crossover (PXO) and the location of the PXO scheduled to be installed on Yorkhill Blvd.

Background

In Fall of 2018, staff received concerns from residents regarding pedestrian crossing safety on York Hill Blvd near the Eitz Chaim school and York Hill District Park. In response to the residents' concerns for pedestrian crossing safety, staff conducted a Pedestrian Crossover Study in accordance with the Provincial Guidelines (Ontario Traffic Manual, Book 15). Based on the study findings, a PXO was warranted that include fulfilling the minimum number of pedestrian crossing, therefore it was recommended to be installed and in accordance with AODA Legislation including accessible pedestrian push buttons.

PXOs are a type of traffic control used to assist pedestrians crossing the street. On January 1st, 2016, the Highway Traffic Act was revised to include a regulation which identifies a new type of Pedestrian Crossover. As a result of the legislative framework, including the Act, new regulation (402/15), municipalities can install pedestrian crossovers. The introduction of the PXO corresponds to recommendations related to pedestrian safety in the 2012 Chief Coroner's Report. At a PXO, vehicles must stop and yield the whole roadway. Many leading municipalities such as the City of Ottawa, City of Toronto, City of Hamilton, City of Markham, Region of York, and Region of Peel have introduced PXOs.

The PXO identified at the subject location is to make pedestrians more visible to motorists and currently operates as a highly utilized crossing location because it connects to a school and to York Hill District Park (outlined in attachment 1 – location map).

Section 80.28 of Ontario Regulation 413/12 for Accessibility for Ontarians With Disability Act, outlines that accessible pedestrian signals must have a locator tone that is distinct from a walk indicator tone. This is to ensure that those with visual impairments can have access to this crossover whenever they should need it, and that they are provided with the same level of safety as those without disabilities. The locator tone is adjustable through the programming of the accessible pedestrian pushbutton (APS).

On April 7, 2021 staff demonstrated the workings of the locator tone to Ms. Beverley Golden and community neighbours at the proposed York Hill Blvd. PXO location. The demonstration



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performed included adjusting the locator tone to various decibel levels including ambient noise levels.

In conjunction with AODA legislation, the audible locator tone is required under the City's Inclusive Design Standards, however, the tone level is to be set such that it is audible within a minimum 12' radius of the crossing. This was achieved and demonstrated on April 7, 2021.

Staff have listened to the concerns raised at the 3 site meetings and have made adjustments to the design of the pedestrian crossover in response to concerns raised. This includes removing the existing speed hump/raised crosswalk and relocating it to the north at the Gailcrest Circle intersection, to maintain the desirable operating speeds on York Hill Blvd, and to make the proposed crossing to be more pedestrian-friendly and accessible.

Conclusion

Staff have carefully studied the implementation of this crossing and have been responsive to the concerns raised since May 2020, including three site visits, a demonstration on the accessible pedestrian push buttons audible locator tone and taking all the concerns under advisement in determining the placement, design and construction of this crossover.

To align with the City's Term of Council Priorities on Active, Safe and Diverse Communities focused on safety, inclusion, and diversity, staff conclude that it is appropriate to install the pedestrian crossover at the determined location.

Respectfully Submitted

 Digitally signed by
Paladino, Nadia
Date: 2021.06.07
13:55:57 -04'00'

Nadia Paladino for Zoran Postic
Deputy City Manager Public Works

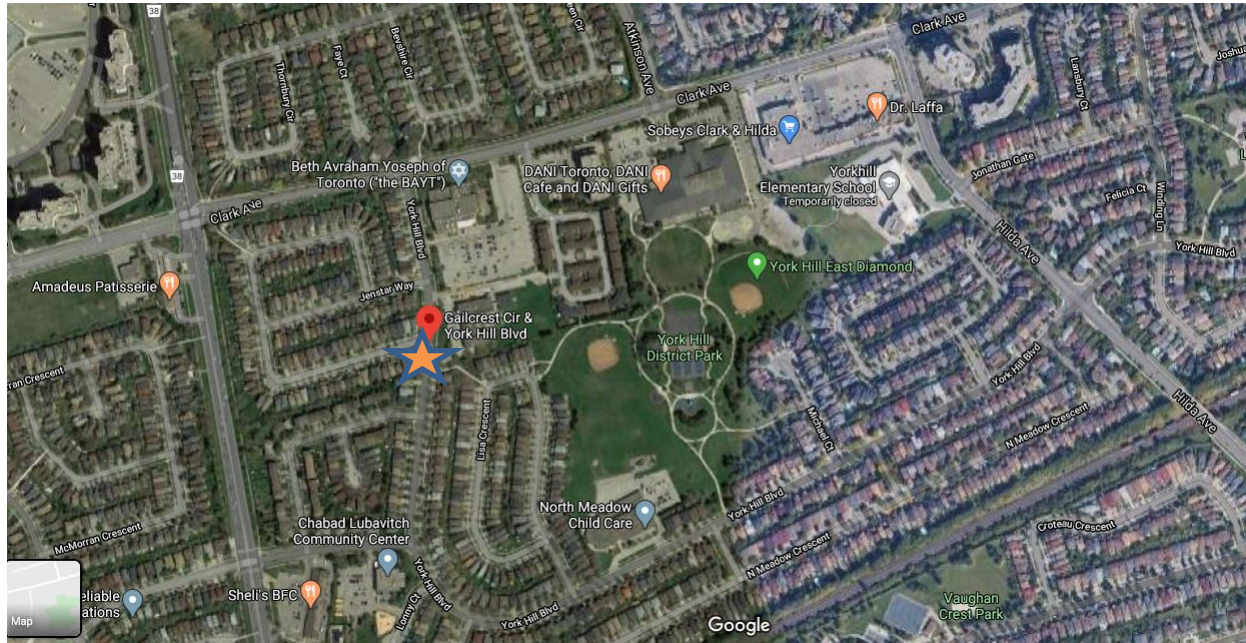
 Digitally signed by
Spensieri, Nick
Date: 2021.06.07
16:10:12 -04'00'

Nick Spensieri
Deputy City Manager Infrastructure Development

Attachment No. 1 – Location Map

York Hill Blvd, south of Gailcrest Circle

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York Hill Blvd
minor collector roadway

- 23 m right of way
- 11 m pavement widths

Sidewalk on both sides
Connection to Park and school.

Mature trees

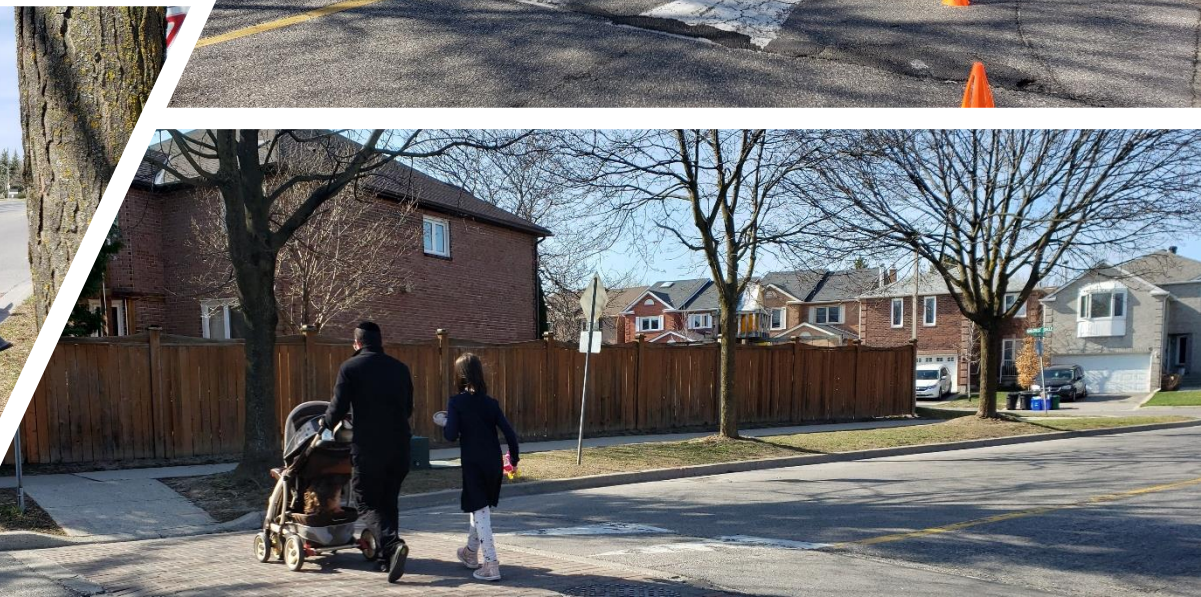
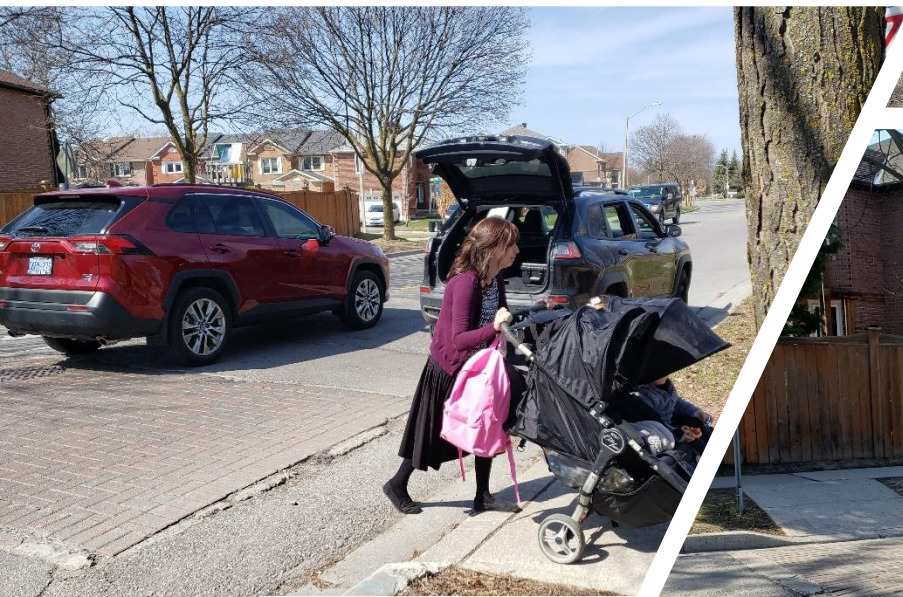
Met requirements:
pedestrian volume;
vehicle volume;
distance from traffic control

Legend



Pedestrian Crossover





York Hill Blvd, south of Gailcrest Circle



Example: PXO at Valley Vista Blvd

