



Dear Councillor Brockington,

Re: Southmore Dr East Traffic Calming Initiative

This letter follows-up on the presentation by City Transportation Planning staff on the Southmore Dr East *Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Study* to RPCA's November 3, 2021, Board meeting. RPCA wishes to thank you for facilitating the presentation and seeking our views; the information provided and the good discussion was helpful.

RPCA generally supports this initiative, which would result in the installation of 4 sets of speed-cushions on Southmore Dr East, together with edge lines along the entire stretch of the street. Speeding, stop sign compliance, and cut-through traffic continues to be a problem on this street. These problems will only get worse with the new exit ramp from the Airport Parkway onto West Walkley Road, which will significantly increase traffic on Southmore Dr East and other local streets. As demonstrated by experience to date in Ottawa, and information from the Transportation Association of Canada, speed cushions can make an important contribution to reducing both traffic speeds and volume.

Notwithstanding the traffic calming merits of this initiative, the single most important safety consideration/deficiency involving Southmore Dr East is the lack of sidewalks. Currently (and inexplicably), sidewalks only exist on a one-block stretch of the street between Thorndale Dr and Linton Rd., and are needed on the balance of the street ASAP:

- The street is a major pedestrian thoroughfare for recreational walking (and cycling) and is the most direct route to access bus service on West Walkley Road and to get to and from the Walkley Transit station and Bank St.
- The number of pedestrians (and cyclists) will also increase significantly when the Walkley LRT station enters service.
- Walking on the street is even more challenging during the Winter when accumulations of snow on and near the curbs forces pedestrians more into the traffic lanes.

Hopefully, the 11m width of the street would facilitate the construction of sidewalks and, if they are built on the roadway (instead of on adjacent property), the resulting narrowing of the street would further assist traffic calming. We encourage you to give a priority to the installation of sidewalks on those parts of Southmore Dr East that do not yet have them as part of the City of Ottawa's update of its *Active Transportation Plan* now in progress.

We also ask that the following additional concerns be taken into consideration:

- The implications for mobility-challenged pedestrians: The speed cushions should be installed in such a way that they do not impede the movement of users of "walkers", wheelchairs and strollers (this further justifies the need for more sidewalks).
- The winter maintenance implications of speed cushions: Snow removal around the speed cushions should be done in such a way as not to result in potentially hazardous

accumulations of snow and ice, especially close to the curb, and which would further impede pedestrians with mobility challenges or force them into the traffic lanes.

- Timing and nature of the planned community consultations: We encourage that these take place as soon as practicable so that the proposed traffic calming measures can be implemented on a timely basis, should there be support to proceed.

We would also like to take this opportunity to register again the need for increased enforcement of existing measures to address speeding, cut-through traffic and illegal turns onto Southmore Dr East at the McCarthy Rd intersection during peak hours, as well as to improve stop sign compliance along this and other important streets in our community.

Finally, and as noted in the City's presentation, we would like to underline the need to keep the Southmore Dr East Traffic Calming Initiative separate from any changes to the McCarthy Rd/Southmore Dr and West Walkley Rd/Southmore Dr East intersections. Any proposed changes to these important intersections should take into account the results of the additional traffic calming measures that may be implemented on Southmore Dr East, as well as the results of the West Walkley Road Traffic Calming Pilot project planned for Spring 2022.

We look forward to the forthcoming community consultations on this initiative. In the meantime, please continue to keep us informed of developments.

Thank you again.

Respectfully,

Kate Cathrae

President,

Riverside Park Community Association

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