

## Newton

### Background

#### Traffic Management Measures



Newton community members expressed concerns about traffic shortcutting and speeding along 121 Avenue from 50 Street to 58 Street.

To address these concerns, the following measures were implemented in October 2015 as part of the Traffic Shortcutting Pilot Project:

- Speed humps along 121 Avenue between 50 Street and 58 Street
- Review signal timing at the intersection of 121 Avenue and 50 Street to discourage shortcutting along 121 Avenue

Each speed table runs across the roadway with a 2 m flat top raised 75 mm in combination with 1 m end ramps. The speed tables also include pavement markings and signage to warn drivers.

#### Public Engagement Process

Prior to the implementation of the traffic management measures, Administration met with concerned community members, representatives of the Newton Community League and Councillor Caterina to discuss the pilot project. Impacted households and roadway users were

notified prior to the installation of traffic management measures through roadway signs and bulletins.

Since the implementation of the pilot project, 40 inquiries were received through email, letters and phone calls. In early 2016, a drop-in public meeting was provided to collect input from area residents, with 50 people in attendance. A total of 142 questionnaires were completed through a phone survey, participation in the drop-in public meeting and online.

## Post-Implementation Results

### Public Involvement Process

The combined results from the 142 questionnaires provided through the Newton public meeting, phone surveys and online indicate that approximately 80% of the respondents were aware of the community traffic management process. However, 50% of the respondents felt they had enough information to clearly understand the project and only 30% felt the project included opportunities to provide input into decisions.

The common themes provided as part of the additional comments of the questionnaire include: the speed tables enhance driver awareness of the posted speed limits, the speed tables are shifting traffic to other roads, most of the shortcutting traffic is related to the school traffic, and the process did not allow opportunities for adequate public input.

### Traffic Management Measures

Based on the questionnaire, approximately 45% of respondents were satisfied with the traffic volumes and 50% of respondents were satisfied with the traffic safety during the peak hours along the study corridors prior to the installation of the traffic management measures.

Approximately 20% of the questionnaire respondents felt comfortable with the speed tables, with 15% of respondents indicating they felt that the traffic safety improved.

The the speed tables impacted the traffic volumes along 121 Avenue as follows:

| Location                         | Daily Volume |       | % Change  |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-------|-----------|
|                                  | Before       | After |           |
| #1 121 Avenue, West of 51 Street | 1,400        | 1,175 | - 16%     |
| #2 121 Avenue, West of 54 Street | 840          | 885   | No Change |

Please Note: Up to a 10% change in daily traffic volumes is considered to be within normal fluctuations

The speed tables impacted the vehicle shortcutting along 121 Avenue as follows:

|           | Percentage Shortcutting |       | Number of vehicles shortcutting in two hour period |       |
|-----------|-------------------------|-------|--|-------|
|           | Before                  | After | Before   | After |
| 7AM – 9AM | 16%                     | 10%   | 17   | 9     |
| 4PM – 6PM | 22%                     | 16%   | 52   | 60    |

The speed tables impacted the vehicle speeds along 121 Avenue as follows:

| Location                         | Speed Limit (km/h) | Average Speed (km/h) |       |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------|
|                                  |                    | Before               | After |
| #1 121 Avenue, West of 51 Street | 50                 | 47                   | 42    |
| #2 121 Avenue, West of 54 Street |                    |                      |       |
| <i>During school hours</i>       | 30                 | 32                   | 35    |
| <i>Outside of school hours</i>   | 50                 | 36                   | 36    |