

# DECISION/DIRECTION NOTE

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**Title:** 2017 Traffic Pilot Projects - Great Eastern Avenue

**Date Prepared:** September 16, 2020

**Report To:** Committee of the Whole

**Councillor and Role:** Councillor Sandy Hickman, Transportation & Regulatory Services

**Ward:** Ward 4

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## **Decision/Direction Required:**

Decision on how to conclude the 2017 Pilot Project on Great Eastern Avenue.

## **Discussion – Background and Current Status:**

Between August 14 and November 17, 2017, a pilot project was conducted at Great Eastern Avenue and Petite Forte Drive. This project installed a mini-roundabout using temporary materials. This location was selected:

- due to resident concerns in the area,
- surveys showing higher than desirable speeds on Great Eastern Avenue between Ladysmith Drive and Gil Eannes Drive; and,
- a suitable road design with which to apply the mini-roundabout concept.

As a result of this pilot project there was a 5km/hr to 11km/hr drop in typical speeds and a drop from 68.8% of vehicles travelling over 50km/hr to only 15.3% of vehicles travelling over 50km/hr. This project was very successful with respect to its goal of lowering speeds in the vicinity of this intersection.

However, there was significant backlash from the community for this project. There was only 22% approval among nearly 1,000 responses to the follow up survey. This response resulted in a staff recommendation to terminate the pilot project and not construct the mini-roundabout permanently.

The opinion expressed by the community and the staff recommendation directly conflict with the concerns expressed by the community prior to implementation of the pilot project. As such, in R2018-04-16/26, Council deferred a final decision on this pilot project to allow the Ward Councillor time to follow up with the community and discuss further.

These discussion have since concluded and the Ward Councillor has advised that there is a desire for speed cushions to be installed on Great Eastern Avenue between Ladysmith Drive and Gil Eannes Drive as an alternative measure to the mini-roundabout tested during the pilot project.

# ST. JOHN'S

**Key Considerations/Implications:**

## 1. Budget/Financial Implications:

A speed cushion design has not been prepared yet for this area. Based on other speed cushion projects the requested speed cushions would cost approximately \$30,000 to install. If the recommendation below is approved then a design would be completed and costs estimated prior to submission to the capital budget process.

## 2. Partners or Other Stakeholders:

n/a

## 3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans:

While not an action within the strategic plan this recommendation supports “A City That Moves – Improve safety for all users on a well-maintained street network.”

## 4. Legal or Policy Implications: n/a

## 5. Privacy Implications: n/a

## 6. Engagement and Communications Considerations:

Installation of speed cushions on a collector road can be divisive. Some people find significant value in the speed reduction that results. Others are bothered by the impact the speed cushions have on driving in the neighbourhood, on access to residential driveways, or from noise as vehicles pass over the speed cushions.

If this project is approved by Council, a communications plan will be developed to ensure that area residents are aware of the project prior to installation of the new speed cushions.

## 7. Human Resource Implications: n/a

## 8. Procurement Implications: n/a

## 9. Information Technology Implications: n/a

## 10. Other Implications: n/a

**Recommendation:**

That Council refer the construction of permanent speed cushions on Great Eastern Avenue between Ladysmith Drive and Gil Eannes Drive to the capital budget process for consideration.

**Prepared by:** Garrett Donaher, Manager - Transportation Engineering

**Approved by:** Scott Winsor, Director of Engineering

**Report Approval Details**

Document Title:	2017 Traffic Pilot Projects - Great Eastern Avenue.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Sep 21, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

**Scott Winsor - Sep 21, 2020 - 9:21 AM**

**Jason Sinyard - Sep 21, 2020 - 11:35 AM**