

Our File/N/Réf. **50 20-99-0001**
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DATE 18 November 1999

TO/DEST. The Chair and Members of Council

FROM/EXP. Director Mobility Services and Corporate Fleet Services
 Environment and Transportation Department

SUBJECT/OBJET **TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES EVALUATION STUDY**

<u>Information Previously Distributed</u> To be listed on the Transportation Committee Agenda 30 Nov 99

The City of Ottawa has implemented a significant number of traffic calming measures on area roadways since 1996, and the Region of Ottawa-Carleton has also implemented traffic calming measures (as pilot projects) on Laurier Avenue East, Lyon Street, Parkdale Avenue, Scott Street and Churchill Avenue beginning in 1997. Many of these measures were proposed and approved as part of planning studies that were jointly funded and managed by the Region and the City. As with any significant change to the design or operation of our roads, it is appropriate to evaluate the success of these measures and to assess the need for modifications to the standards and practices that have been used in implementing them.

Regional and City staff have therefore initiated an evaluation study to be completed over the next several months. The need to do so at this time arises, in part, due to the fact that City staff have been directed by their Council to bring forward a traffic calming policy for consideration by March 2000. A joint evaluation project is appropriate to avoid duplication of effort, and to ensure a consistent evaluation methodology for measures on Regional and City roads.

Regional and City staff have been gathering information, such as “before” and “after” data, in anticipation of an evaluation study. While such a study would normally be undertaken at the staff level, neither the Region nor the City have sufficient in-house resources to complete it at this time. For this reason, the Region and the City have retained Synectics Consulting which offers strong expertise in transportation engineering as well as the environmental and community considerations that are an important component of traffic calming objectives. Synectics has not been involved in any of the Regional or City traffic calming initiatives, and this allows the firm to bring objectivity to the evaluation study while drawing on similar experiences in other jurisdictions.

A critical element of the study will be a consultation program involving public meetings, questionnaires and focus groups to gather input from various stakeholders, including:

- community representatives (e.g. residents, schools, employers and business groups) from areas where traffic calming measures have been implemented;
- roadway users (e.g. individuals as well as interest groups representing cyclists, pedestrians, drivers and goods movement companies); and
- technical agencies including emergency services, transit, school bus operators, waste collection companies and roadway maintenance and operations staff.

The consultation program will be initiated very shortly and will involve public meetings within selected communities, distribution of questionnaires, and focus group sessions with interest groups and agencies. Staff will directly advise affected Councillors of the outreach schedule and will consult with them on the timing of public meetings.

If you have questions or wish to obtain a copy of the study's Terms of Reference, please call John Buck at extension 1693 or Geoff Noxon at extension 6913.

*Approved by
Doug Brousseau*