

# CORRESPONDENCE TO THE COUNCIL

Report Number: MSB-O8--01

Date:21/01/08

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**From:** Maurice S Brenner  
Community and Social Advocate

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**Subject:** Traffic Calming on Fairport Road

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## **Recommendation:**

- (1) Council receive the 125 "Traffic Calming Support Forms-figure 4 and Report MSB -08-01 "Traffic Calming on Fairport Road"
- (2) Council direct staff to form a "Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Committee" with representatives from "The Citizens' Group for Traffic Calming on Fairport Road" to examine and recommend preferred "cost effective traffic calming options" and develop a "Traffic Calming Plan"
- (3) And that this committee be formed and commence its first meeting no later than the second week in February at a mutually agreed up time and date
- (4) Staff report back to Council for consideration of inclusion in the 2008 Budget any projected costs that will ensure commencement of the process to implement recommended outcomes of the "Traffic Calming Plan" set out in recommendation 2

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## **Background:**

The City of Pickering in 2003 adopted the Final Report "Safer Streets Traffic Management Strategy" The report was created over a 3 year period of research and community engagement. The "Safer Streets Traffic Management Strategy" was created as a "living document" that would evolve. The main objectives of the strategy was to

- (a) enhance public safety, particularly for pedestrians and cyclists
- (b) address concerns of residents, both real and perceived
- (c) minimize impacts on adjacent residential streets
- (d) maintain access for local traffic, emergency services and public transit
- (e) recommend cost efficient measures
- (f) improve and or enhance the aesthetics of a neighbourhood
- (g) discourage short cut through traffic volumes
- (h) encourage public participation and community support

The residential homes of Fairport Road between Kingston Road and Finch are part of the Dunbarton Neighbourhood 7 adjoining to the Amberlea Neighbourhood 11 to the west.. The residents are seeking to resolve their ongoing fears for the safety of their families which has developed over time as a result of a road way that suffers from what some call "an identify problem".

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Fairport Road in its early years was one of a few road ways that was able to move traffic north and south linking what was then an urban community to what was still a rural community at Finch. Since that time both Whites Road and Dixie have been upgraded and the original need for Fairport Road to move traffic external to the communities of Dunbarton and Amberlea has shifted .

Today Fairport Road consists of approximately 125 single family homes with potential for some redevelopment and infilling which have already started. In addition several adjacent communities have also been developed off of Fairport.

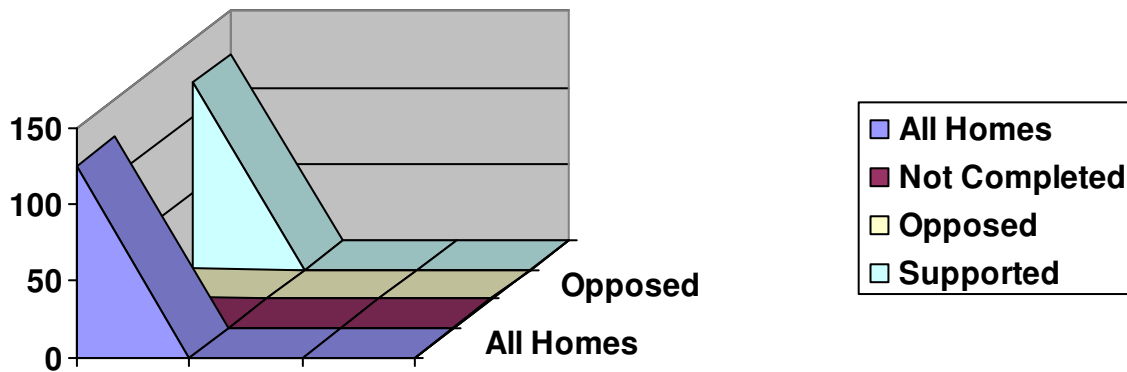
While it is recognized that the request for traffic calming may not meet all of the technical evaluation criteria contained in the City of Pickering Traffic Calming Policy, the residents do believe that it does meet the objectives of the “Safer Streets Management Strategy” and is seeking to move forward on their request having achieved in excess of the City of Pickering target of 70% minimum for support.

### **Fears for Safety**

The existing conditions of speeding cars and traffic volumes have resulted in a serious risk for safety of those who live there. Through outreach and engagement of these families it is evident that some form of traffic calming is necessary if this residential street is to sustain and see benefit with-in the 1996 Council adopted vision statement that is supported by the Pickering Official Plan. Attempts to resolve their concerns through the use of education through enforcement have not resolved the situation.

### **Process Carried Out**

Over a period of several months in summer 2007, the “Citizens Group for Traffic Calming on Fairport Road” was formed to review how best to resolve the issues of safety concerns that have been apparent to this residential community for many years. A door to door outreach of all homes on Fairport Road between Kingston Road and Finch was carried out (125). The group achieved 98.4% response (123). Using the sample City of Pickering “Traffic Calming Support Form” as their template (excluding reference to paragraph 3 to ensure that respondents understood that this request was not being carried out by the City of Pickering nor was it supported by City of Pickering Staff or any technical traffic study) they went door to door



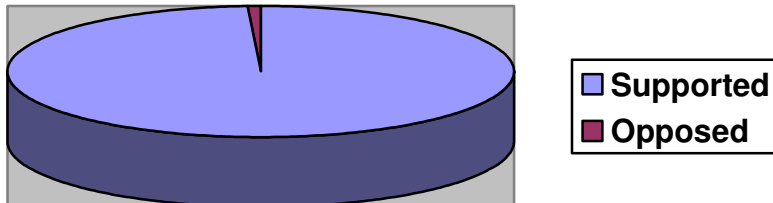
Total Homes visited: 125  
 Total Homes responded: 123  
 Total Homes not responded: 2 (vacant/required translator)  
 Total Homes Supported: 122  
 Total Homes Opposed 1

**Level of Support:**

According to the City of Pickering Safer Streets guidelines, “70%” support rate is required from the residents on the street being reviewed in order for a project to proceed.

The response rate in support on Fairport Road is as following:

- 98.4% Response Rate
- 99.1% Support Rate of all Responses
- 97.6% Support Rate of all Homes including non responses
- .9% (less than 1%) Opposed of all responses
- 2.4% Opposed based on all Homes



### **Moving Forward:**

As noted in the Final Report January 2003 Safer Streets Traffic Management Strategy, “traffic concerns have grown to an alarming rate in neighbourhoods throughout the City of Pickering over a number of years” this holds true for the residents of Fairport Road. The “Citizens Group for Traffic Calming on Fairport Road is committed to working towards creating a balanced traffic calming plan through the formation of “Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Committee” whose terms of reference shall be to:

- enhance public safety, particularly for pedestrians and cyclists,
- address concerns of residents, both real and perceived
- minimize impacts on adjacent residential streets,
- maintain access for local traffic, emergency services and public transit,
- recommend cost efficient measures,
- improve and or enhance the aesthetics of a neighbourhood,
- discourage short cut through traffic volumes
- encourage public participation and community support

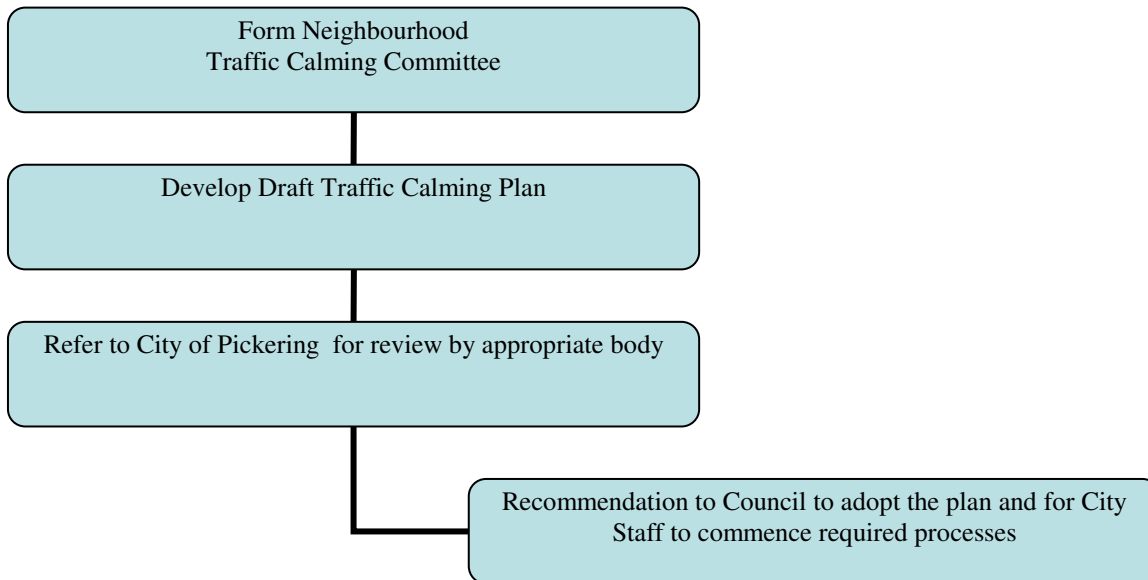
### **Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Committee:**

The committee would be comprised of representatives from the City of Pickering as determined by Council and selected members appointed by the Citizen’s Group for Traffic Calming on Fairport Road,

The role of this committee would be to develop a traffic calming plan with-in a specified time frame.

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**Implementation Process**



**Financial Implications:** TBD and referred to 2008 budget for consideration

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Reference Materials:

1. City of Pickering Official Plan
2. Safer Streets Traffic Management Strategy
3. Traffic Calming Policy

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**Prepared and Submitted By:**

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**On behalf of:**

The Citizen Group for Traffic Calming on Fairport Road