



To: Public Works and Transportation Committee **Date:** July 3, 2002
From: Gordon Chan, P. Eng. **File:** 6450-01
Director, Transportation
Re: Albion Road and Aquila Road – Proposed Traffic Calming Measures

Staff Recommendation

That the proposed traffic calming measures on Albion Road and Aquila Road to enhance traffic and pedestrian safety, as described in the attached report, be endorsed.

Gordon Chan, P. Eng.
Director, Transportation

Att. 1

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
R.C.M.P.	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
Engineering	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	

Staff Report

Origin

For the past year, residents in the vicinity of Aquila Road and Albion Road had forwarded to staff concerns related to traffic speeding through the area. In light of these on-going concerns, staff have held discussions with area residents and carried out an on-site assessment of local traffic conditions to determine the extent of the reported problems. This report presents the results of this assessment and a number of recommended traffic calming initiatives to enhance traffic safety in this neighbourhood.

Analysis

1. Existing Conditions

Albion Road and Aquila Roads are both classified as local roads which intersect as a T-intersection. Both of these roads connect to an arterial roadway, No. 4 Road to the west and Williams Road to the south. Albion Road is 7.5 metre wide with curb and gutter constructed to facilitate angle parking on the north side of the roadway adjacent to McNair Secondary School. The south side of Albion Road has a gravel shoulder and an open ditch.

Aquila Road north of the intersection is 9.0 metre wide with curb and gutter on both sides of the road and a sidewalk on the east side. South of the intersection the roadway narrows to 6.0 metre with gravel shoulders and open ditches on both sides. At present, parking is not permitted on the south side of Albion Road and the west side of Aquila Road (Albion Road to Williams Road), while time limited parking restrictions exist for the remainder of Aquila Road on the east side of the roadway.

Towers Baptist Church is located at the northwest corner of Albion Road and Aquila Road intersection. Area residents have reported that the church parking lot is frequented by groups of drivers in late evenings.

2. Recent Traffic Volume and Speed Surveys

A recent traffic study conducted by staff found that the average speed on Albion Road over a 3-day period was 40-43 kilometres per hour, while the posted speed is 50 kilometres per hour. The majority of drivers (85 percent) were driving at a speed of 56-60 kilometres per hour or lower, with a total recorded traffic volume of 600 vehicles per day. The observed hourly vehicular volumes along Albion Road which peaked over two periods of about 30 minutes each before and after school, were found to be mainly attributed to parents picking up or dropping off students and students arriving and departing the school by car.

The recent speed survey, however, did record a number of significant speeding incidents. For example, a speed of 105 kilometres per hour was recorded at 9:30 p.m. on a Friday during this survey period. A review of the City's *Motor Vehicle Accidents Summary* found that there had been one crash recorded in 1999 since 1998. However, staff were advised by local residents that there were also numerous unreported traffic accidents in the area causing considerable property damages.

3. Actions Taken to Date

Over the last few years the City has implemented a number of initiatives to enhance traffic and pedestrian safety in the general area of McNair Secondary School. These initiatives include:

- Curb side angle parking on the north side of Albion Road delineated with treed boulevard,;
- Parking restrictions on Albion Road and Aquila Road;
- Crosswalk upgrade at Albion Road and No. 4 Road to special amber flashing control with overhead lighting; and
- New walkway on Saunders Road west of No. 4 Road.

4. Proposed Traffic Calming Measures

As noted in Section 2 above, while the average traffic speed on Albion Road was not found to be excessively high for a local residential road, the recent speed study did conclude that there were isolated incidents where vehicles were recorded travelling at high speed along this section of the roadway west of Aquila Road. Taking into consideration a number of factors such as the proximity of McNair Secondary School, the recent traffic incident which resulted in significant property damage, the on-going reported incidents of young drivers displaying irresponsible driving behaviour, and the night-time gathering of drivers in the area, staff concluded that some form of special traffic calming measures were warranted at this location.

A further investigation was therefore conducted to identify the potential measures that could be implemented to increase the compliance level of the posted speed limit. As a result, staff have developed a number of traffic calming measures that are considered to be appropriate for this location. These recommended measures, as illustrated in the attachment, are summarized below.

- *Centre Medians* – Four centre medians are proposed to be constructed on both Albion Road and Aquila Road to deter speeding. The application of similar measures at other locations such as Riverside Industrial Park and River Drive has proven to be effective.
- *Road Markings* – A centre yellow line is proposed to be painted along Albion Road and Aquila Road. In addition, white shoulder lines are also proposed on Albion Road, including the edge of the angle parking stalls to achieve the appearance of a narrower roadway.
- *Stop Signs* – A three-way stop control is proposed to be introduced at the intersection of Albion Road and Aquila Road. Although this level of stop control may not be warranted solely based on existing traffic volumes observed, it may be appropriate to be applied at this location in light of other determining factors such as the close proximity of the school, the observed speeding activities, and recent accident records.
- *Additional Signage* – A new neighbourhood traffic calming advisory sign is proposed to be posted at each of the approaches to the intersection. The same sign will be placed along Albion Road and Aquila Road to advise drivers that they are entering a residential area with traffic calming devices.

- *Ditch Infill* – As part of the 2003 Major Capital Works Program, the existing ditch on the south side of Albion Road is proposed to be filled-in. The completion of this project would facilitate the installation of additional extruded curbs on the south side of this roadway to minimize the potential of off-road accidents by physically delineating the shoulder from the travelled lane.
- *Church Parking Lot* – Upon discussions with staff, the Pastor of Towers Baptist Church has expressed support for introducing a number of traffic calming measures within the church parking lot to address the issue of reported late night activities on the site. Furthermore, he has committed to re-introducing chains across the driveways and providing extruded curbs and speed humps at selected locations within the parking lot to deter dangerous driving activities.

5. Enforcement and Education

The RCMP and Bylaw Enforcement will be advised of the proposed traffic calming measures and any continued violations of speed and parking regulations will be addressed. In addition, staff will continue to take an active role in the education of students of McNair Secondary School through the school and RCMP, and other initiatives identified by the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee.

6. Public Consultation

Staff have met with a number of area residents and the Pastor of Towers Baptist Church to discuss their traffic safety concerns and to seek their comments on potential solutions. The above proposed traffic calming measures are supported by the residents and the Pastor.

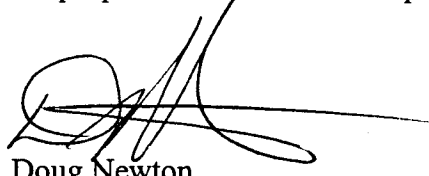
A mail-back survey will be sent to the affected residents of Albion Road and Aquila Road in the vicinity of the centre medians to provide them with the opportunity to comment on the proposed traffic safety enhancements. Any feedback received from the residents, specifically on the exact location and detailed layout of the centre medians, will be incorporated into the final design of the proposed measures. This survey will take place after the endorsement of this report by Council.

Financial Impact

The cost of the above proposed traffic calming measures on Albion Road and Aquila Road, including the centre medians, is estimated at \$18,000 with the funding source being the 2002 Major Capital Works Program for Neighbourhood Traffic Safety Improvements. The cost of the proposed measures within the church parking lot and driveways will be borne by Towers Baptist Church.

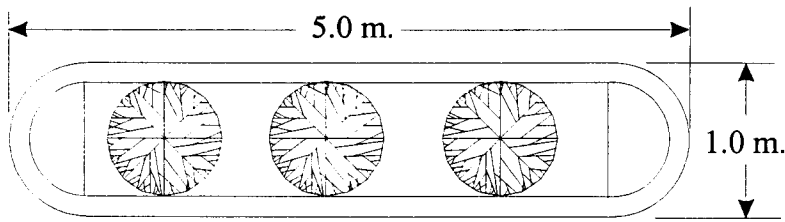
Conclusion

Staff have reviewed the pedestrian and traffic conditions on Albion Road and Aquila Road in response to recent concerns expressed by local residents regarding excessive speeding. The review has concluded that a number of traffic calming measures, including the installation of centre medians on Albion Road and Aquila Road, at an estimated cost of \$18,000 should be implemented at this location to enhance traffic safety in the area. In addition, enforcement and education will remain key components in the overall effort of promoting traffic and pedestrian safety in this neighbourhood. Staff further propose to undertake public consultation via a mail-back survey to gain feedback from affected residents on the exact location and detailed design of the proposed centre medians upon endorsement of the recommended measures by Council.

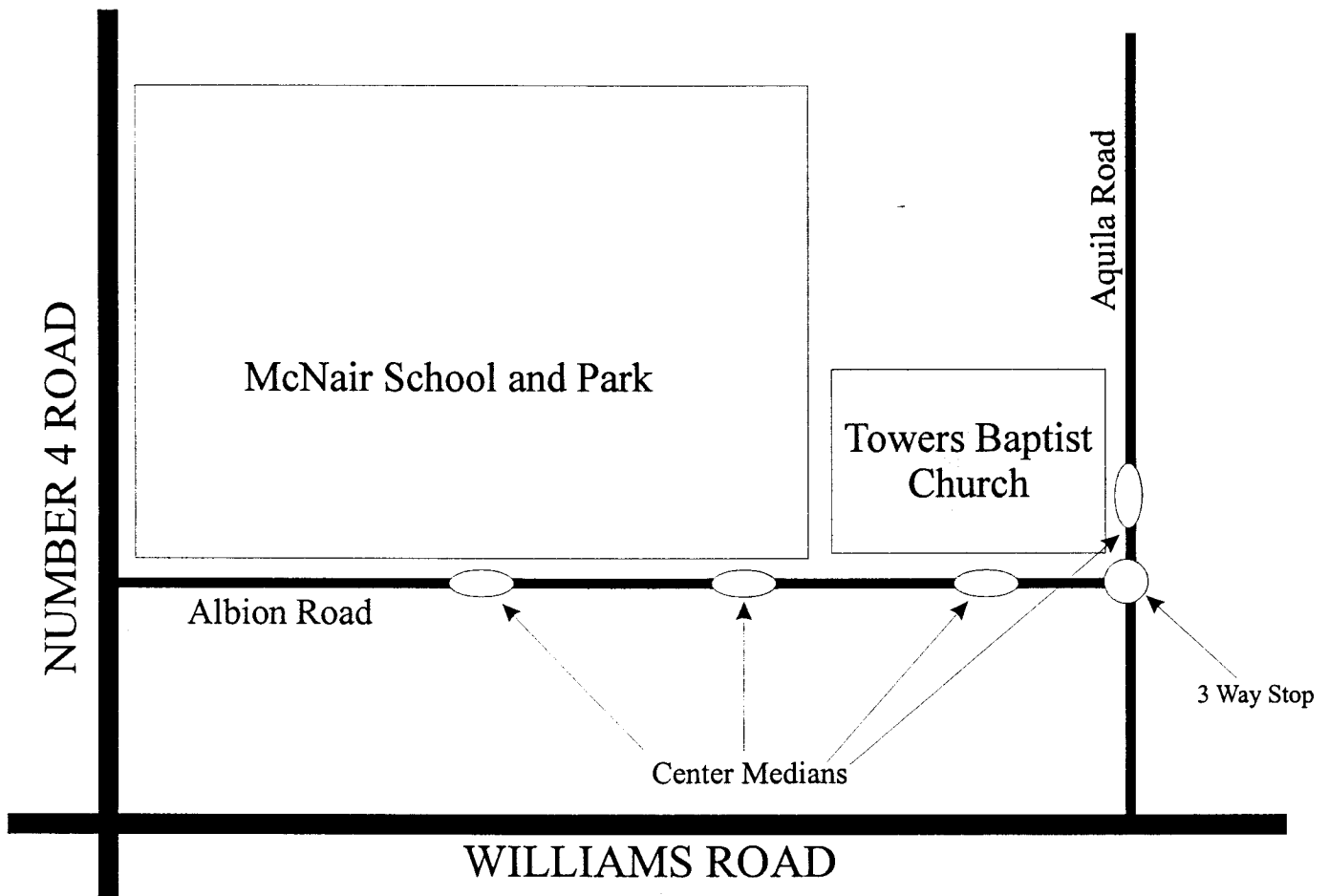


Doug Newton
Traffic Technician I

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Typical Layout of Center Median



- Other traffic calming measures:*
- centerline and edge lines on Albion Road
 - new residential area "Traffic Calming" sign
 - church parking lot speed humps, extruded curbs and chained entrances
 - education and enforcement

**PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES
ALBION ROAD AND AQUILA ROAD**