Council Direction:

City Council at its meeting held September 28, 2011, referred a petition, signed by representatives from 41 area homes, to staff for review/action of several items, namely:

1. Request for a “No Mountain Access” sign.
2. Request for a “50 km/h Begins” sign.
3. Request for a Community Safety Zone”.
4. Request for more Police speed enforcement.
5. Request for Speed Humps on Winona Road, south of Highway 8.

This matter was subsequently placed on the Public Works Committee’s Outstanding Business List for a follow-up report in 2012.

Information:

As a result of these requests/concerns, staff subsequently issued a Work Order and installed a “No Mountain Access” sign and a “50 km/h Begins” sign. There are existing “No Exit” signs in place on both sides of Winona Road, south of Helena Avenue to reinforce the “No Mountain Access” sign and these “No Exit” signs are well located and readily visible.

The City of Hamilton does not utilize “Community Safety Zones” (CSZ’S) as studies have shown, they are of little benefit. The City of Hamilton retained the services of a consultant in 2001 to review other Ontario municipalities that have implemented “Community Safety Zones”. That study concluded that CSZ’s are ineffective at
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changing travel speeds, or improving safety (i.e. decreasing collision frequency or severity).

Staff recently conducted two separate three day speed/volume studies on Winona (one between Highway 8 and Helena and the other between Helena and the southerly, dead-end section of Winona). The results in the northerly section revealed an 85th percentile speed of 51.3 km/h with an average daily traffic volume of 760 vehicles per day (VPD). The results south of Helena revealed an 85th percentile speed of 55.8 km/h with an average daily traffic volume of just 180 VPD. Based on these study results, neither section of Winona Road meets the Council approved Traffic Calming prerequisites to proceed with the installation of Speed Humps. However, the Police were contacted and asked to provide whatever level of speed enforcement they felt necessary and/or appropriate in this matter.

In conclusion, staff supported the implementation of additional signage in this area advising that this is a residential area and determined that the travel speeds on Winona Road, south of Highway 8 are very reasonable and that Traffic Calming measures, such as Speed Humps, are not required.