

Traffic calming strategy working

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Strategies aimed at reducing speeding on Concession Road in Preston are working, according to city officials.

In a report this week to the city's general committee, Cathy Robertson, director of engineering services, states that vehicle speeds near St. Michael's Catholic School and Coronation Public School have been reduced by 9 km/h since the completion of road work this summer.

Last summer, construction crews narrowed portions of the busy Preston thoroughfare, added bike lanes and provided on-street parking near Coronation Public School for student pickup in an effort to reduce speeding on the four-lane street. The changes were made in conjunction with other planned road improvements, but were initially met with skepticism from the public.

"While this is a subject that continues to require attention to ensure that people keep to the speed limits, it's a sign that things are improving," said Ed Kovacs, city commissioner of transportation and public works.

According to the report, staff have received positive comment since the changes were implemented.

"Residents are pleased with the reduction in traffic speed, travel lanes and the introduction of bike lanes," states the report. "Area crossing guards have also commented that it is much easier and safer to cross the school children with the reduced crossing distance due to the reduced travel lanes and curb extensions."

The church council at Preston Mennonite Church has also thanked the city for traffic pattern changes in front of their church and Fairview Mennonite Home.

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