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SPEED LIMIT REVISION AURORA ROAD TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, December 14, 2005, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The existing speed limit of 80-km per hour on Aurora Road (Y.R. 15) from the east limit of Kennedy Road (Y.R. 3) to 300 metres west of McCowan Road (Y.R. 67), in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, be reduced to 70-km per hour.
2. The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary by-laws.
3. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the Clerk of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville and to the Chief of York Regional Police.
4. York Regional Police be requested to assist with the enforcement of these speed zones as their resources permit.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council authorization to change the existing speed limit regulation on Aurora Road between Kennedy Road and 300 metres west of McCowan Road from 80-km per hour to 70-km per hour in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

In accordance with the *Highway Traffic Act*, a Regional by-law is required, in addition to the posting of appropriate speed limit signs, before any of the proposed changes can be enforced.

3. BACKGROUND

A local resident from the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville requested that the existing speed limit of 80-km per hour speed limit on Aurora Road from Kennedy Road to 300 metres west of McCowan Road be reduced to 70-km per hour to improve traffic safety.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

At its meeting of September 23, 2004, Regional Council adopted a new policy on setting speed limits on the Regional road system. This policy is based on a number of factors which include field studies to determine operating speeds; analyzing collision data to identify any relevant patterns or trends; assessing roadway characteristics and evaluating existing or proposed adjacent land uses.

Aurora Road, between Kennedy Road and McCowan Road is a two-lane rural roadway that carries approximately 7,500 vehicles per day. The roadway characteristics in this area consist of rolling terrain and several horizontal and vertical curves. This section of Aurora Road connects with two local roads, Forest View Trail and Percy Wright Road. A number of direct frontage homes are also present along this road section.

The existing speed limit on Aurora Road throughout this road section is 80-km per hour changing to a 60-km per hour speed zone 300 metres west of McCowan Road. This sudden and large drop in the speed limit contributes to the low compliance to the 60-km per hour speed limit. Introducing a 70-km per hour speed limit between the existing 80-km per hour and 60-km per hour speed limit will likely change driver perception and will cause drivers to enter the 60-km per hour speed zone at lower operating speeds. It is anticipated that the reduction in the posted speed limit will reduce the risk to drivers entering Aurora Road from driveways and intersections.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs associated with the manufacture and installation of the new speed limit signs is included within the 2006 Roads Budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The recommended revision to the speed limit relates to the Regional road system with no direct impact on the local municipality. The changes to the posted speed limit are intended to improve the level of speed compliance in these areas.

7. CONCLUSION

Regional staff has received a request from a local resident to review the posted speed limit on Aurora Road in the area of Kennedy Road. As a result of this review, it is proposed that the existing posted speed limit of 80-km per hour on Aurora Road from the east limit of Kennedy Road to 300 metres west of McCowan Road be reduced to 70-km per hour.

A Regional by-law is required before any speed limit can be enforced. It is, therefore, recommended that the Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary by-laws and that this report be forwarded to the Clerks of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville and to the Chief of York Regional Police, with a request to enforce the new regulatory speed limits, as their resources permit.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause was included in the agenda for the January 11, 2006 Committee meeting.)