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SPEED LIMIT REVIEW WARDEN AVENUE, OLD HOMESTEAD ROAD TO BASELINE ROAD TOWN OF GEORGINA

The Transportation Services Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report dated February 19, 2010, from the Commissioner of Transportation Services.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Regional Clerk forward this report to the Clerk of the Town of Georgina.

2. PURPOSE

This report provides information on the review of the existing posted speed limit on Warden Avenue between Old Homestead Road and Baseline Road, in the Town of Georgina, as requested by the Town.

3. BACKGROUND

Regional staff receives requests to review posted speed limits on Regional roads from residents and from staff of local municipalities. When reviewing existing speed limits, staff considers a number of factors to ensure the regulatory speed is applicable to the existing roadway characteristics and roadside environment. In a letter from the Clerk of the Town of Georgina, Regional staff were requested to reduce the existing speed limit on Warden Avenue between Old Homestead Road and Baseline Road.

The current policy on setting speed limits on Regional roads was adopted by Regional Council on September 23, 2004. This policy is based on a number of factors including completion of field studies to determine operating speed; analysis of collision history to identify any relevant patterns or trends; assessment of physical roadway characteristics; and evaluation of any existing or proposed adjacent land use.

On February 18, 2010, Regional Council adopted a report entitled "Policy Update Establishing Speed Limits on Regional Roads". The report, as adopted by Council, directed the local municipalities and York Regional Police review a proposed draft policy by the Fall of 2010 and requested staff to report back in 2011 on the results of that review. This proposed draft policy and the prior policy as adopted by Regional Council in 2004 were used to assess the speed limit discussed in this report.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

In general, the goal of a speed limit review is to establish the regulatory speed limit in accordance with the current roadway characteristics, actual operating speed, and collision history. Under the current speed limit policy the speed limit review process for each of the road sections consists of:

- A determination of roadway characteristics
- Speed studies to determine the operating speeds
- A summary of the recent collision history and potential safety issues
- A review of existing and proposed development in the area

Staff reviewed the road characteristics, the speed study, collision history and other potential safety issues on Warden Avenue. The results of this review is provided as follows.

Roadway characteristics for this section of Warden Avenue suggest that the existing speed limit of 80 kilometres per hour remains appropriate

Warden Avenue between Old Homestead Road and Baseline Road (*see Attachment 1*) in the Town of Georgina is a two-lane road located in a rural area. The community of Belhaven is located in the area of Warden Avenue and Old Homestead Road. Old Homestead Road, through Warden Avenue, is offset providing two closely spaced intersections on Warden Avenue. The posted speed limit on Warden Avenue through Belhaven is 50 kilometres per hour and continues northerly beyond the community. The posted speed limit then increases to 80 kilometres per hour and continues through to Baseline Road. At this time, there are no transit facilities in this rural area.

There are limited access points on this section of Warden Avenue and the roadway is rural with sufficient shoulders. The roadway characteristics suggest that the existing 80 kilometres per hour speed limit is still appropriate.

A speed study was conducted, collision history reviewed and potential safety issues were identified for this roadway

A recent speed study indicated that the mean speed of traffic on Warden Avenue north of Old Homestead Road is 74 kilometres per hour and that 85% of vehicles are travelling at or below 82 kilometres per hour.

Available collision data for this road section identified no patterns or trends attributed to high speeds.

A review of potential safety issues for the area indicated that current operating speeds are appropriate given the roadway characteristics.

Current development in the area does not support a lower speed limit of 70 kilometres per hour

Current development in the area is limited and the roadway conditions are predominantly rural. As development progresses in the future, it will be appropriate to review this speed limit reduction to ensure that the posted speed is consistent with land use and roadway characteristics in accordance with the proposed policy.

The speed limit on Warden Avenue between Old Homestead Road and Baseline Road was assessed using the recently presented proposed draft policy on setting speed limits on the Regional Road network and the previous policy adopted in 2004

The current speed limit considered in this report has been assessed using the draft policy entitled *Policy Update Establishing Speed Limits on Regional Roads*. The location where the speed limit was reviewed by staff is summarized in *Table 1*. The review of the posted speed limit on Warden Avenue, between Old Homestead Road and Baseline Road, was conducted in accordance with the draft policy in addition to the policy adopted by Council in 2004. Both speed limit policies indicate this road section is conducive to an 80 kilometre per hour speed zone and the current speed limit is appropriate at this time.

Table 1
Comparison Summary of Existing Speed Limits Using Existing and Proposed Draft Policy

Roadway	Existing Speed Limit	Speed Limit Using Existing Policy	Speed Limit Using Draft policy	Recommended Speed Limit
Warden Avenue – from Baseline Road to Old Homestead Road	80	80	80	80

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications related to this report. The cost to review and assess the speed limit, as discussed previously in this report, is part of the day-to-day operations for staff.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The review of the current speed limit on Warden Avenue between Old Homestead Road and Baseline Road is based on a request from the Clerk of the Town of Georgina. This report will be forwarded to the Clerk of the Town of Georgina.

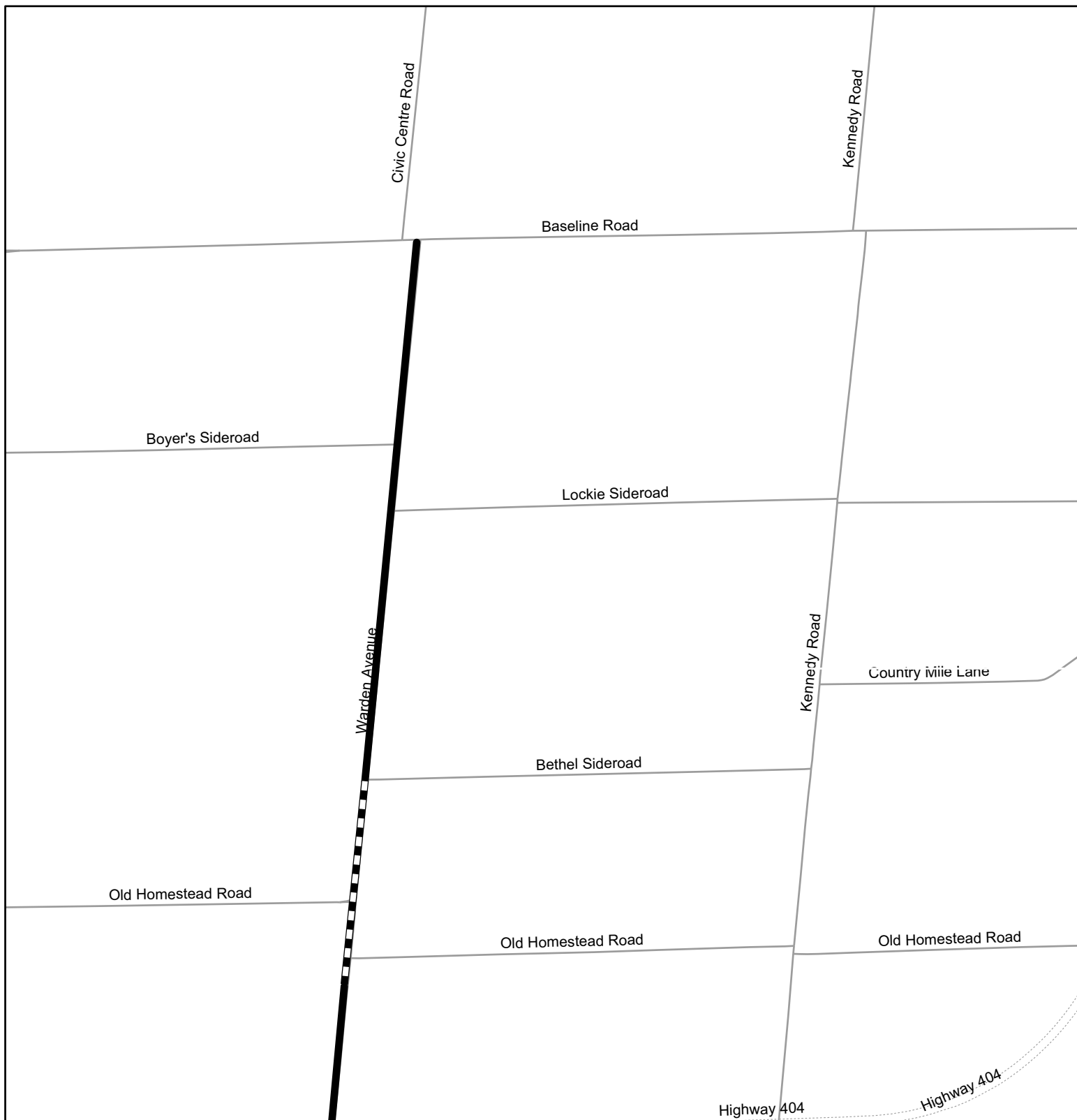
7. CONCLUSION

In accordance with the draft policy entitled *Policy Update Establishing Speed Limits on Regional Roads* and the policy that was adopted in 2004, the posted speed limit of 80 kilometres per hour on Warden Avenue between Old Homestead Road and Baseline Road is appropriate at this time.

For more information on this report, please contact Steven Kemp, Director, Traffic Management and Intelligent Transportation Systems at extension 5226.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause is attached to this report).



LOCATION PLAN

Speed Limit Revisions

Warden Avenue, Old Homestead Road to Baseline Road

Town of Georgina

 Existing 50-km-per hour
 Existing 80-km-per hour



TRANSPORTATION SERVICES