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SPEED LIMIT REVIEW - WARDEN AVENUE TOWN OF MARKHAM

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, April 21, 2004, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The existing posted speed limit of 70-km per hour on Warden Avenue (Y.R. 65), from 100 metres south of the south limit of Highway 7 (Y.R. 7) to the south limit of 14th Avenue (Y.R. 71) in the Town of Markham, be reduced to 60-km per hour.
2. A copy of this report be sent by the Regional Clerk to the Chief of Police, with a request to enforce the speed limit in this area, as their resources permit.
3. The Regional Clerk forward a copy of this report to the Clerk of the Town of Markham.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to propose a reduction in the existing speed limit on Warden Avenue, between Highway 7 and 14th Avenue from 70-km per hour to 60-km per hour. A location plan is provided as *Attachment 1*.

3. BACKGROUND

The speed limit on Warden Avenue, between 16th Avenue and Highway 7 is 60-km per hour. The speed limit on Warden Avenue, between Highway 7 and 14th Avenue is 70-km per hour.

Warden Avenue, between McPherson Street (south of 14th Avenue) and Apple Creek Boulevard (north of Highway 7) is currently scheduled for widening from four lanes to six lanes commencing in late 2004 or 2005.

This section of Warden Avenue includes an interchange with Highway 407. The design standards for interchange ramps are generally based on the speed limit. The widening of Warden Avenue will impact the geometry of the existing interchange ramps based on the current speed limit.

If the speed limit remains, the design standard for the ramps will dictate that the existing structure over the 407 will need to be widened. If the speed limit is reduced from 70-km

per hour to 60-km per hour, the existing ramp configuration can remain without the additional cost of widening the bridge.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

A study, consisting of a review of the 85th percentile speed, driveway density, pedestrian volumes and on-going development along Warden Avenue between 14th Avenue and Highway 7 indicate that the existing 70-km per hour speed limit should be lowered to 60-km per hour. The 60-km per hour speed limit will also accommodate the existing Highway 407 ramps within the proposed six lane design of Warden Avenue, without having to widen the bridge over Highway 407. The costs of widening the bridge over Highway 407, should it be required, would be the responsibility of York Region.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Reducing the existing 70-km per hour speed limit to 60-km per hour will remove the need of York Region of having to widen the bridge over Highway 407.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

There are no local municipal impacts as a result of this report.

7. CONCLUSION

The purpose of this report is to propose a reduction in the existing speed limit on Warden Avenue, between Highway 7 and 14th Avenue from 70-km per hour to 60-km per hour.

A study, consisting of a review of the 85th percentile speed, driveway density, pedestrian volumes and on-going development along Warden Avenue between 14th Avenue and Highway 7 indicate that a 60-km per hour speed limit would be appropriate in this area. The 60-km per hour speed limit also accommodates the existing Highway 407 ramps within the proposed six lane design of Warden Avenue, without having to widen the bridge over Highway 407.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(A copy of the attachment referred to in the foregoing has been forwarded to each Member of Council with the May 5, 2004 Transportation and Works Committee agenda and a copy thereof is on file in the Office of the Regional Clerk.)