

23
SPEED LIMIT REVISION
McCOWAN ROAD
TOWN OF MARKHAM

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, June 1, 2006, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The existing speed limit of 70-km per hour on McCowan Road (Y.R. 67) from 900 metres north of Highway 7 (Y.R. 7) to 350 metres north of the north limit of Carlton Road, in the Town of Markham, be reduced to 60-km per hour.
2. The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary by-law.
3. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the Clerk of the Town of Markham 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 McCowan Road between 900 metres north of Highway 7 to 350 metres north of the north limit of Carlton Road from 70-km per hour to 60-km per hour, in the Town of Markham.

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 request was received from a resident to reduce the existing speed limit of 70-km per hour on McCowan Road from 900 metres north of Highway 7, to 60-km per hour to improve traffic safety in the vicinity of a high school located on McCowan Road north of Highway 7.

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.

McCowan Road, between Highway 7 and 16th Avenue is a four-lane urban roadway that carries approximately 30,500 vehicles per day. The roadway characteristics in this area consist of sidewalks on both sides of the road, commercial establishments and a high school located on the west side of McCowan Road. This section of McCowan Road connects with several local roads leading into large residential subdivisions. A number of direct frontage homes are also present along this road section.

The existing speed limit on McCowan Road throughout this road section is 70-km per hour changing to a 60-km per hour speed zone 900 metres north of Highway 7. Extending the 60-km per hour speed zone past the high school would provide vehicles with an adequate transition zone throughout the school area. This will provide a safer and more adequate transition zone prior to the entrance of the high school.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Town of Markham staff has been consulted and are in support of the speed reduction on McCowan Road. 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 McCowan Road in the area north of Highway 7. As a result of this review, it is proposed that the existing posted speed limit of 70-km per hour on McCowan Road from 900 metres north of Highway 7 to 350 metres north of the north limit of Carlton Road, be reduced to 60-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-law and that this report be forwarded to the Clerk of the Town of Markham 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 June 14, 2006 Committee meeting.)