

24

TEMPORARY SPEED ZONES 2006 ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

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. Temporary 60-km per hour speed zones be adopted on the following roadways with the implementation occurring between June 22, 2006, and project completion and only as necessary during the actual construction activities:
 - a) Highway 27 (Y.R. 27), from 250 metres north of Nashville Road (Y.R. 49) to 750 metres south of Nashville Road (Y.R. 49), in the City of Vaughan.
 - b) Bathurst Street (Y.R. 38), from King Road (Y.R. 11) to Mulock Drive (Y.R. 74), in the Towns of Aurora, Newmarket and Richmond Hill, and the Township of King.
 - c) Ninth Line (Y.R. 69), from 100 metres north of the north limit of Rouge Bank Drive to the south limit of Highway 7 (Y.R. 7), in the Town of Markham.
 - d) Ninth Line (Y.R. 69), from 150 metres north of the north limit of 16th Avenue (Y.R. 73) to 150 metres north of Bur Oak Avenue, in the Town of Markham.
 - e) Nineteenth Avenue (Y.R. 29), from Bayview Avenue (Y.R. 34) to Leslie Street (Y.R. 12), in the Town of Richmond Hill.
 - f) Leslie Street (Y.R. 12), from Elgin Mills Road East (Y.R. 49) to 900 metres north of Elgin Mills Road East (Y.R. 49), in the Town of Richmond Hill.
 - g) Leslie Street (Y.R. 12), from 250 metres south of the east leg of Nineteenth Avenue to the east leg of Nineteenth Avenue, in the Town of Richmond Hill.
2. The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary by-laws.
3. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the Chief of York Regional Police, Clerks of the City of Vaughan and the Towns of Aurora, Markham, Newmarket, Richmond Hill and the Township of King.
4. York Regional Police be requested to assist in the enforcement of these temporary speed zones, as their resources permit.

2. PURPOSE

This report is prepared to gain Regional Council approval to temporarily change the regulatory speed limits within construction zones for the 2006 Capital Roads Program. A Regional by-law is required under the *Highway Traffic Act* with appropriate posting of signs before any of the proposed speed limits can be enforced.

3. BACKGROUND

A number of projects scheduled for construction in 2006 occur on two-lane roadways with speed limits in excess of 60-km per hour (*see Attachments 1 - 6*). The nature of road construction activities routinely require the temporary restriction of traffic on the travelled roadway. To safely carry out construction and control, and the traffic within the work areas, traffic control persons are used on the roadway.

As of March 31, 2006, the *Highway Traffic Act* has been amended to include provisions dealing with the fine structure for speeding in construction zones. The fine structure essentially doubles fines for motorists who speed through designated construction zones. In order to designate a construction zone, proper signage notifying motorists that they are entering a construction zone must be in place. It will be the contractor's responsibility to install these identification signs as part of their work.

To address this potential safety issue for both the travelling public and the construction workers, temporary reduced speed zones are routinely implemented.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

With a reduction of the maximum regulatory speed limit in construction areas, traffic control can be carried out in a safe and efficient manner especially, with police enforcement. It is proposed that for the sections of roads where construction is scheduled for 2006, temporary speed limit reductions should be implemented. The proposed locations are as follows:

- Highway 27, from 250 metres north of Nashville Road to 750 metres south of Nashville Road, in the City of Vaughan, where the existing speed limit of 80-km per hour will be posted with a temporary speed limit of 60-km per hour (*see Attachment 1*).
- Bathurst Street, from King Road to Mulock Drive, in the Towns of Aurora, Newmarket, Richmond Hill, Aurora and the Township of King, where the existing

speed limits of 70 and 80-km per hour will be posted with a temporary speed limit of 60-km per hour (*see Attachment 2*).

- Ninth Line, from 100 metres north of the north limit of Rouge Bank Drive to the south limit of Highway 7, in the Town of Markham, where the existing speed limit of 70-km per hour will be posted with a temporary speed limit of 60-km per hour (*see Attachment 3*).
- Ninth Line, from 150 metres north of the north limit of 16th Avenue to 150 metres north of Bur Oak Avenue, in the Town of Markham, where the existing speed limit of 70-km per hour will be posted with a temporary speed limit of 60-km per hour (*see Attachment 4*).
- Nineteenth Avenue, from Bayview Avenue to Leslie Street, in the Town of Richmond Hill, where the existing speed limit of 70-km per hour will be posted with a temporary speed limit of 60-km per hour (*see Attachment 5*).
- Leslie Street, from Elgin Mills Road East to 900 metres north of Elgin Mills Road East, in the Town of Richmond Hill, where the existing speed limit of 70-km per hour will be posted with a temporary speed limit of 60-km per hour (*see Attachment 6*).
- Leslie Street, from 250 metres south of the east leg of Nineteenth Avenue to the east leg of Nineteenth Avenue, in the Town of Richmond Hill, where the existing speed limit of 70-km per hour will be posted with a temporary speed limit of 60-km per hour (*see Attachment 6*).

The temporary speed limit reductions will be implemented only for as long as necessary for actual construction operations and will be rescinded as soon as the work is complete.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs associated with the manufacturing and installations of the necessary speed limit signs are included in the proposed 2006 Capital Roads Budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

There are no local municipal implications associated with this report. However, the safety of all road users and construction workers within construction areas is of continuous mutual concern.

7. CONCLUSION

It is proposed that temporary speed limits, as outlined in this report, be implemented for the 2006 road construction season. The temporary speed limits will be in effect during the construction activities only. Upon project completion, the original posted speed limit, in accordance with the existing by-laws, will be in effect.

In order for the temporary speed limits to be enforced, the Regional Solicitor should be directed to prepare the necessary by-laws. The Regional Clerk should forward this report to the Clerks of the affected local municipalities and to the Chief of York Regional Police with a request to assist in enforcement, as their resources permit.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachments referred to in this clause were included in the agenda for the June 14, 2006 Committee meeting.)