

6

SPEED LIMIT REVISIONS TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL AND TOWNSHIP OF KING

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, October 21, 2005, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The existing speed limit of 60-km per hour on Bayview Avenue (Y.R. 34) from a point 50 metres south of the south limit of Windhurst Gate to 50 metres north of the north limit of North Taylor Mills Drive in the Town of Richmond Hill, be reduced to 40-km per hour.
2. The existing speed limit of 80-km per hour on Weston Road (Y.R. 56) from a point 840 metres south of the south limit of 19th Sideroad to the south limit of 18th Sideroad in the Township of King, be reduced to 70-km per hour.
3. The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary by-law.
4. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the Clerks of the Town of Richmond Hill and the Township of King, and to the Chief of York Regional Police, with a request to enforce this new regulation, as their resources permit.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council authorization to change existing speed limit regulations for certain sections of roads within the Regional road system. 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

The Roads Branch regularly reviews posted speed limits on Regional Roads. Revisions to the existing speed limits take into account a number of factors to ensure that the regulatory speed is applicable to the existing roadway characteristics and roadside environment, and is in accordance with actual operating speeds and collision history.

Where instances occur that reconstruction changes the roadside environment and alignment to such a degree that existing speed limits are no longer appropriate, steps are to be taken to ensure that the regulatory speed limit is appropriate with the roadway characteristics.

The Roads Branch routinely reviews existing speed limit regulations as part of an ongoing speed limit review process.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

These speed limit revisions are required to address changes in land use and to standardize the regulatory speed limit applications for each section of road in accordance with the current roadway characteristics. The results of each of the proposed speed regulation changes are discussed below.

4.1 Bayview Avenue, South of Elgin Mills Road, Town of Richmond Hill

Bayview Avenue, south of Elgin Mills Road is a four-lane urban roadway that carries approximately 35,000 vehicles per day. The existing speed limit on Bayview Avenue at this location is 60-km per hour.

In January of this year, through a Council report, the previous posted speed limit of 40-km per hour was increased to 60-km per hour. This increase was implemented, as an elementary school located on the west side of Bayview Avenue, necessitating the 40-km per hour speed zone, was closed by the York Catholic School Board.

The York Public School Board has recently re-opened this school and requested the Region to consider reducing the speed limit in this area. In discussion with the York Public School Board it is expected the school will remain open for two years at which time the children will be moved to a new school.

It is recommended that the existing posted speed limit of 60-km per hour on Bayview Avenue be decreased to 40-km per hour from a point 50 metres south of the south limit of Windhurst Gate to 50 metres north of the north limit of North Taylor Mills Drive in the Town of Richmond Hill (*see Attachment 1*). The posted speed limit will be reviewed upon closure of the school.

4.2 Weston Road, South of Highway 9, Township of King

Weston Road, south of Highway 9 is a two-lane rural roadway that carries approximately 1,600 vehicles per day. The existing speed limit on Weston Road at this location is 80-km per hour. This area is primarily residential with driveways on both sides of Weston Road. The terrain is generally rolling providing some visibility limitations for some residents leaving their driveways.

In May of this year, under the Region's capital roads program, traffic control signals were installed at the intersection of Weston Road and Lloydtown-Aurora Road. Previously there were stop signs for northbound and southbound traffic at this intersection. This proposed speed limit change will extend an existing 70-km per hour zone to include the signalized intersection.

Because of the limited visibility, residential driveways and the introduction of a signalized intersection, it is recommended that the existing posted speed limit of 80-km per hour on Weston Road be decreased to 70-km per hour from a point 840 metres south of the south limit of 19th Sideroad to the south limit of 18th Sideroad in the Township of King (*see Attachment 1*). It is anticipated that the decrease in the posted speed limit will create more consistent travel speed in this area and provide safer access opportunity for the residents of the area.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs associated with the manufacture and installation of the new speed limit signs are included within the 2005 Roads Transportation Budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The recommended revisions to the speed limits relate to the Regional road system with no direct impact on the local municipality. The revisions reflect the changes stemming from both existing and proposed adjacent development and local concerns for speeding and safety. The changes to the posted speed limits are intended to improve the level of speed compliance in areas where safety is an issue.

7. CONCLUSION

The Roads Branch initiated a review of the existing speed limit regulations as part of a regular speed limit review process. The proposed speed limit change on Weston Road will assist in standardizing the regulatory speed limit applications in accordance with the current roadway characteristics. The school on Bayview Avenue has reopened which requires that the speed limit be reduced to 40-km per hour.

It is recommended that the existing speed limit of 60-km per hour on Bayview Avenue from a point 50 metres south of the south limit of Windhurst Gate to 50 metres north of the north limit of North Taylor Mills Drive in the Town of Richmond Hill, be reduced to 40-km per hour until July, 2007.

It is recommended that the existing speed limit of 80-km per hour on Weston Road from a point 840 metres south of the south limit of 19th Sideroad to the south limit of 18th Sideroad in the Township of King, be reduced to 70-km per hour.

A by-law is required before speed limits can be enforced. Therefore, the Regional Solicitor should prepare the necessary by-laws and a copy of this report should be forwarded to the Chief of Police, with a request to enforce these new regulations, 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 November 2, 2005 Committee meeting.)