

Subject: Traffic By-law Amendment – Town-Wide Speed Limit Reduction

Department: Infrastructure Services

Division: Public Works

Report #: INS-2021-006

Meeting Date: 2021-01-25

Recommendations

That report INS-2021-006, Traffic By-law Amendment – Town-Wide Speed Limit Reduction, be received;

And that Council pass a By-law to amend Traffic By-law 78-2005 to reduce the speed limit on most Town roads from 50 km/h to 40 km/h and to add Rolling Hills Drive, McCannell Avenue and Blind Line to the list of Community Safety Zones.

Background

On May 30, 2017, the Province of Ontario passed Bill 65, the Safer School Zone Act which permits municipalities to enact neighbourhood speed limit reductions. Currently, the default speed limit in Ontario is 50 km/h, unless posted otherwise. Section 128 (2.1) of the Ontario Highway Traffic Act (the Act) now allows municipalities to pass a by-law to set a speed limit less than 50 km/h for all roads within a designated area.

At its meeting on September 28, 2020, Council passed two motions directing staff amend the Traffic By-law (the By-law). Specifically, the first motion stated that all 50 km/h roadways in Orangeville be revised to 40km/hour. Excluded streets will include major town roads listed as follows: Hansen, First Street, Townline, C Line, Riddell, Centennial, B Line and Broadway. Upon implementation of this initiative, the town will engage in a robust public education campaign and a request for support from Ontario Provincial Police Service for targeted enforcement. The second motion stated that the following streets will be changed to a community safety zone: McCannell Avenue and Rolling Hills Drive and, Blind Line (within Orangeville limits).

The By-law will implement the changes described above, however these changes will not become effective until signs are erected in accordance with the Highway Traffic Act (1990), as amended.

Analysis

Implementing the direction of Council will be somewhat more involved and costly than initially anticipated. This relates primarily to the fact that the majority of roads leading motorists into the Town of Orangeville are included in the list of roads that will continue to have a speed limit in excess of 40 km/h, as illustrated on Attachment No. 1 to this report.

Ontario Regulation 615 Signs (5.1.1) (the Regulation) describes the required signage for an area that has been designated by By-law as having a speed limit of less than 50 km/h. The Regulation states that speed limit signs shall be erected on each highway that enters the designated area at the boundary of the designated area. These signs will include an AREA tab specifying that the driver is entering a 40 km/h area. The Regulation also requires that signs be erected at the boundary of a designated area informing motorists that they are leaving the designated area.

Were all of the roads leading motorists into Town to be included in the Town-wide 40 km/h zone, it is our understanding that the erection of 40 km/h AREA signs at each entrance to the municipality (and 40 km/h ENDS signs as roads led out of Town) is all that would be required to comply with the Act and Regulation. However, as the majority of roads coming into Town will continue to have speed limits in excess of 40 km/h, having the 40 km/h AREA sign at the entrance to Town followed immediately by a 50 km/h speed limit sign would be confusing for drivers, and potentially impact the enforceability of the new speed limits.

To resolve this issue and to amend the By-law in a manner that complies with the Act, staff recommend identifying nine designated 40 km/h areas as shown on Attachment No. 1. The boundaries between these areas will be roads that will continue to have speed limits in excess of 40 km/h. To comply with the Act and Regulation, the signs described above would need to be posted on each road that enters the designated area at the boundary of the designated area. The boundaries between the nine designated areas are either Town boundaries or roads that will continue to have a higher speed limit. This approach will ensure that 40 km/h AREA signs inform motorists that they are entering an area with a new speed limit each time they turn off one of the roads that are included in the list of roads that will continue to have a speed limit in excess of 40 km/h.

Attachments No. 2 through 7 to this report illustrate additional details of the proposed nine designated 40 km/h areas. These attachments also illustrate the approximate locations for the 40 km/h AREA and 40 km/h ENDS signs that are required for each road meeting the boundary of a designated area, in accordance with the Act and Regulation. Staff estimate that a total of 186 new signs will be required, which will cost approximately \$25,000 in materials. Town staff will erect the signs and, while there will

not be any additional cost to the Town, it is anticipated that the cost of the staff time to install the signs will be in the order of \$8,000.

To inform the public regarding this change, staff propose to use a variety of media. The Town's various digital platforms will be used, including the website, Twitter and Facebook. We would also include this information on Municipal 511. We propose to issue a news release, publish print ads and include this information in the Town page on a regular basis. Staff also propose a series of ads on local radio to reach a broader audience. Our portable electronic message boards will also be deployed at entrances to Town to inform motorists of the change.

Strategic Alignment

Orangeville Forward – Strategic Plan

Priority Area: Community Stewardship

Objective: Safe and Protected

Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan

Theme: Transportation System

Strategy: Promote walking and biking by increasing the connectivity and safety of active transportation infrastructure

Notice Provisions

None.

Financial Impact

The cost to implement the recommendations of this report will be approximately \$25,000. An allowance for this work has not been included in the draft 2021 Operating Budget.

Respectfully submitted

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General Manager, Infrastructure Services

Attachment(s):

1. Designated 40 km/h Speed Limit Areas
2. Designated 40 km/h Speed Limit Areas A/B
3. Designated 40 km/h Speed Limit Areas C/D
4. Designated 40 km/h Speed Limit Area E
5. Designated 40 km/h Speed Limit Areas F/G
6. Designated 40 km/h Speed Limit Area H
7. Designated 40 km/h Speed Limit Area I