



REPORT

REPORT TO: Mayor Bonnette and Members of Council

REPORT FROM: Roumen Kotev, Traffic Coordinator – Road Safety

DATE: April 21, 2021

REPORT NO.: TPW-2021-0014

RE: 40 km/h Speed Limit Pilot Project

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. TPW-2021-0014, dated April 21, 2021, regarding the 40 km/h Speed Limit Pilot Project, be received;

AND FURTHER THAT staff be authorized to commence with the 40km/h Speed Limit Pilot Project;

AND FURTHER THAT staff report back to Council with the results of the 40km/h Speed Limit Pilot Project upon its completion.

BACKGROUND:

Through Resolution 2021-0026, Council requested staff to develop a pilot project comprised of both urban and rural residential sites to test speed reduction strategies that combine traffic calming measures and speed reduction signage to determine if there is a positive impact on reducing overall speeds on our roadways.

In addition, Council has requested staff to investigate the experience of other municipalities that have begun programs to reduce speed limits on selected local streets or in some cases a blanket speed limit reduction and report back on the effects of these programs in terms of reduced driving speed.

Report TPW-2021-0007, the 2021 Traffic Engineering Workplan, has included this pilot project as one of the priorities to be completed this year.

COMMENTS:

Staff have completed a detailed assessment of specific roads and areas to pilot a reduction in the posted speed limit to 40km/h with the consideration of various types of traffic calming measures to complement the reduction in the speed limit.

Traffic calming measures including both intrusive and non-intrusive such as pavement markings, bike lanes, radar messaging boards (permanent and portable), flexible bollards, curb extensions and speed humps, will be evaluated in combination with the reduction of the posted speed limit of 40km/h.

The following roads and/or neighbourhood areas were selected for this pilot project as indicated in Attachments 1 to 5.

- Location #1 – Cobblehill Road Neighbourhood area (Ward 1 - Acton)
- Location #2 – Barber Drive Neighbourhood area (Ward 4 - Georgetown)
- Location #3 – Belmont Boulevard Neighbourhood area (Ward 3 - Georgetown)
- Location #4 – Wildwood Road (Ward 2 - Glen Williams)
- Location #5 – Tanners Drive Neighbourhood area (Ward 1 - Acton)

The proposed locations to be included in the pilot project provide a variety of areas within the Town and unique characteristics but similar safety and speeding concerns. The proposed locations were selected to facilitate the data collection process and not necessarily based on the extent or criticality of the speeding issue in the area. Traffic calming measures implemented as part of this pilot project may or may not remain in place following completion of the project. The performance of each location will be assessed independently and recommendations regarding the future status of the traffic calming measure(s) will be provided to Council for their consideration.

The project will require a large amount of traffic data collection for all the proposed locations. Traffic data will be collected under the existing conditions and will then be compared to traffic data collected once the 40km/h speed limit areas have been installed. At that time, staff will evaluate if any necessary traffic calming measures are necessary. Where traffic calming is warranted, it will be implemented and additional post-implementation traffic data collection will be conducted to assess the results.

As part of the project, the Uniform Traffic Control By-Law 84-1 will be updated to designate the 40 km/h speed limit areas.

Staff are anticipating to report back to Council in the fall with our findings. However, under the current restrictions associated with COVID-19 and the unknowns related to the impacts of the pandemic this may be delayed. Staff will, at a minimum provide, a status update in the fall on this pilot project as part of our overall 2021 Traffic Engineering Workplan Update.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

The recommendations of this Report support the Strategic Plan priority area of Transportation and the focus area of Traffic Safety.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The cost to complete this project has been included in the approved 2021 Operating and Capital Budgets.

CONSULTATION:

Staff have met internally within the Department to discuss the proposed locations for the Pilot Project.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

A Let's Talk Halton Hills Project page will be created to inform and educate all residents about the Pilot Project.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

The Town is committed to implementing our Community Sustainability Strategy, Imagine Halton Hills. Doing so will lead to a higher quality of life.

The recommendation outlined in this Report advances the Strategy's implementation.

This Report supports the Social Well-being pillar of Sustainability and in summary the alignment of this Report with the Integrated Community Sustainability Strategy is Good.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Notification to the community will be undertaken in collaboration with the Town's Communication team using Let's Talk Halton Hills. A project page will be created to inform and educate all residents of the project with updated information.

CONCLUSION:

In response to Resolution 2021-0026, staff have completed a detailed assessment of specific roads and areas to pilot a reduction in the posted speed limit to 40km/h. Staff are proposing the pilot project be carried out at five (5) different locations throughout Halton Hills.

Once approved by Council, the Pilot Project will commence immediately. Staff are anticipating that the project will be completed in the fall and will report back to Council with our findings.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, should the project be delayed, staff will provide a status through the 2021 Traffic Engineering Workplan update in the fall.

Reviewed and Approved by,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Maureen Van Ravens". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Maureen Van Ravens, Director of Transportation

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bill Andrews". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name being the most prominent.

Bill Andrews, Commissioner of Transportation and Public Works

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Chris Mills". The signature is cursive and stylized, with the first name being the most prominent.

Chris Mills, Acting Chief Administrative Officer