

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – MAY 16, 2005

ESTABLISHING SPEED LIMITS PROPOSED SPEED LIMIT POLICY

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends:

1. That the establishment of a City policy for determining appropriate speed limits within the City of Vaughan not be implemented;
2. That the existing 40 km/h speed limit designation in school zones remain unchanged; and
3. That the statutory 50 km/h and 80 km/h speed limits on City of Vaughan roadways, unless otherwise posted as per the Highway Traffic Act, remain unchanged.

Economic Impact

Not Applicable.

Purpose

To review the feasibility of establishing a City policy to provide consistent guidelines for determining appropriate speed limits within the City of Vaughan.

Background - Analysis and Options

The Regional Municipality of York has recently introduced a policy for establishing speed limit zones on Regional rural and urban arterial road classifications. Council has asked that City Engineering staff conduct a review of the Region's policy in terms of the feasibility of establishing a similar policy for determining appropriate speed limits for the public highway network within the City of Vaughan.

The statutory speed limit in the City of Vaughan is 50 km/h (urban area) and 80 km/h (rural area) unless otherwise posted. These statutory speeds are defined under the Provincial Highway Traffic Act (HTA).

In October 2001, Council adopted **“that on roads adjacent to elementary schools that the speed limit will be reduced to 40 km/h for a distance of 150 m beyond a school's property line.”** This reduction in the speed limit is appropriately posted with 40 km/h speed limit signs and is in accordance with the provisions of Highway Traffic Act.

Staff conducted a survey of selected area municipalities for the purposes of determining which municipalities had, or were working towards, a policy/program for determining speed limits on their respective public roadways. Those municipalities contacted were: Richmond Hill, Markham, Mississauga, Brampton, Hamilton, and Region of Peel.

None of the jurisdictions contacted had a written policy for the determination of speed limits. Municipal staff indicated that statutory speed limits on their Town/City roadways, along with a reduction to 40 km/h in school zones, was the accepted practice in their communities.

Engineering staff believe that current speed limits are sufficient for intended purposes and road classification and that until a change in statutory requirements is introduced, the 80/50/40km/h speed zones are adequate. Only the Region of York has an approved policy, which is appropriate given their road network is typically arterial roadways in both urban and rural settings with varying land uses and geometric features and generally higher traffic volumes.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This traffic study is consistent with Vaughan Vision 2007 as to identify and implement innovative traffic management alternatives to improve general traffic safety (1.1.3).

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council.

Conclusion

Based on staff's review, it is recommended that the establishment of a City policy for determining appropriate speed limits on City of Vaughan roadways not be implemented.

Attachments

N/A

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Respectfully submitted,

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