

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - DECEMBER 7, 2010

PROPOSED SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION ON PLEASANT RIDGE AVENUE WARD 4

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends:

That By-law 284 – 94 Schedule “E” Part 1, the Speed Limit By-law, be amended to add that the speed limit be reduced from 50 km/h to 40 km/h on Pleasant Ridge Avenue from the south limit of Rutherford Road to the north limit of Langstaff Road.

Contribution to Sustainability

The reduction of the speed limit to 40 km/h on Pleasant Ridge Avenue will improve safety for the area residents, motorists and activity at neighbouring schools and parks.

Economic Impact

Sufficient funding for installation of the “40 km/h” speed limit signs has been included in the draft 2011 Operating Budget. The on-going costs to maintain the signs would be incorporated in future Operating Budgets.

Communications Plan

Engineering Services staff will inform the resident on the outcome of Council’s decision on this matter.

Purpose

To review the feasibility of reducing the existing “50 km/h” speed limit on Pleasant Ridge Avenue to 40 km/h, in response to a request from an area resident.

Background - Analysis and Options

Pleasant Ridge Avenue is a feeder roadway with a 23.0 metre right-of-way, and an 11.5 metre pavement width. The existing speed limit on Pleasant Ridge Avenue is a statutory 50 km/h.

Staff placed a Radar Message Board on Pleasant Ridge Avenue south of Coltrane Drive to advise drivers of the speed they were driving as well as collect speed and volume data from Monday, May 17, 2010 to Friday, May 28, 2010. This location was part of the Speed Compliance Program carried out in collaboration with York Regional Police. The collected speeds and volumes are summarized below:

Direction	Average Speed	85 th Percentile Speed	Highest Speed	Average 24-hour volume
Southbound	45 km/h	54 km/h	113 km/h	852
Northbound	43 km/h	52 km/h	118 km/h	1327

The average speeds on Pleasant Ridge Avenue range between 43 km/h and 45 km/h. The 85th Percentile speeds (the speed at which 85 percent of the vehicles are travelling at or below) ranges between 52 km/h and 54 km/h. The highest speed was recorded 118 km/h. The traffic volumes collected over a 24-hour period are acceptable for the roadway capacity designed for Pleasant Ridge Avenue. The daily traffic on a feeder roadway should not exceed 8000

vehicles/day. The highest recorded occurrences were between 12 noon and 2:00 pm as a result of the High School lunch time periods.

Carrville Mills Public School is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Pleasant Ridge Avenue and Apple Blossom Drive. Stephen Lewis Secondary School is located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Pleasant Ridge Avenue and Autumn Hill Boulevard. North Thornhill District Park and the North Thornhill Community Centre are also located on the west side of Pleasant Ridge Avenue between Basie Gate and Gauguin Avenue/Morisot Avenue.

There are other main thoroughfares such as Thornhill Woods Drive, Autumn Hill Boulevard and Summeridge Drive in the same area. All of these feeder roadways have an existing 40 km/h speed limit. With the neighbouring traffic generators such as the public school, high school, a park and a community centre located on Pleasant Ridge Avenue, and to be consistent with the other main thoroughfares within the subdivision, Engineering Services staff have no objection to reducing the speed limit to 40 km/h on Pleasant Ridge Avenue.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, the recommendations of this report will assist to:

- Pursue Excellence in Service Delivery;
- Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health & Wellness; and
- Lead and Promote Environmental Sustainability

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

Regional Implications

Not Applicable.

Conclusion

Based on Engineering Services staff's review, it is recommended that the speed limit on Pleasant Ridge Avenue from the south limit of Rutherford Road to the north limit of Langstaff Road be reduced to 40 km/h speed limit.

Attachments

1. Location Map

Report prepared by:

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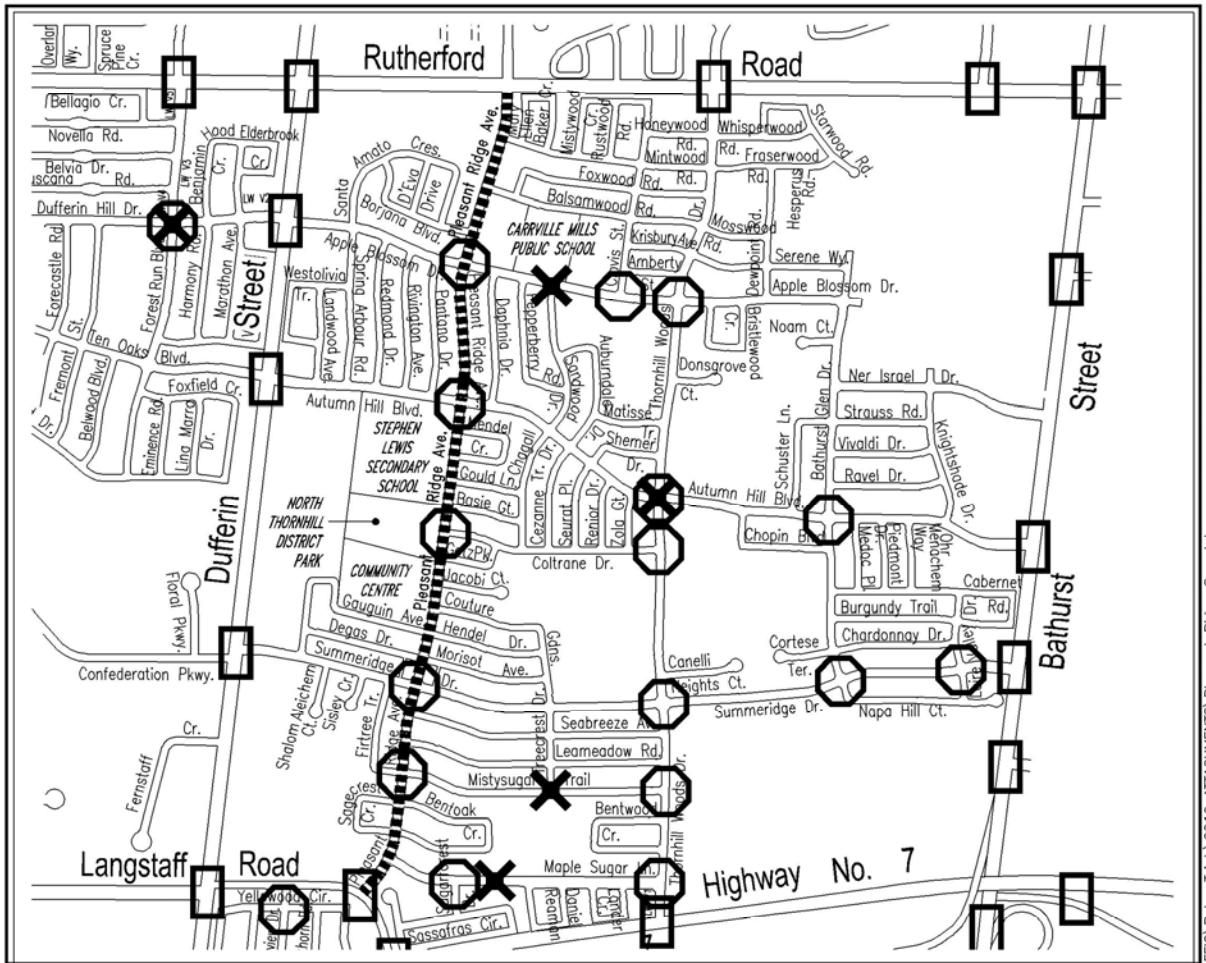
Respectfully submitted,

Bill Robinson, P. Eng.
Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works

Jack Graziosi, P. Eng., M. Eng.
Director of Engineering Services





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ATTACHMENT No. 1



PLEASANT RIDGE AVENUE PROPOSED SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION

LEGEND

-  ROADWAY UNDER REVIEW
-  EXISTING TRAFFIC SIGNALS
-  EXISTING ALL-WAY STOP CONTROL
-  EXISTING SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD



NOT TO SCALE