

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – OCTOBER 7, 2002**

### **VELLORE WOODS BOULEVARD PROPOSED REDUCED SPEED LIMIT**

#### **Recommendation**

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends:

1. That the existing speed limits on Vellore Woods Boulevard and Ashberry Boulevard not be changed from the statutory 50 km/h, and 40 km/h within the Vellore Woods Public School and St. Emily Elementary Catholic School zones;
2. That staff request that York Regional Police provide more frequent enforcement of the speed limits on Vellore Woods Boulevard and Ashberry Boulevard; and
3. That staff be directed to initiate discussions with the Region of York staff and York Regional Police on the feasibility of posting signs listing the fines for motorists exceeding the speed limit on certain major roads in the City.

#### **Purpose**

To review the existing speed limit on Vellore Woods Boulevard and Ashberry Boulevard, and to report on the feasibility of posting signs in Community Safety Zones that would list the fines for motorists exceeding the speed limit.

#### **Background - Analysis and Options**

At its meeting of September 16, 2002, Council approved the following recommendations:

1. “That the deputation of Ms. Elvira Caria, Vellore Woods Ratepayers’ Association, 15 Bunting Drive, Woodbridge, L4H 2E7, and written submission dated September 16, 2002, be received and referred to staff for a report to the Committee of the Whole meeting of October 7, 2002, with respect to the necessary measures required to address the safety issues identified; and
2. That staff provide a report regarding the feasibility of posting signs in Community Safety Zones that would list the fines imposed for motorists going over the speed limit.”

The written submission requests that the speed limit on Vellore Woods Boulevard and Ashberry Boulevard be reduced from 50 km/h to 40km/h, and that the speed limit be further reduced near schools and parks from 40 km/h to 30 km/h.

Vellore Woods Boulevard and Ashberry Boulevard are primary roads with a 23.0 metre right-of-way. The speed limit is posted at 40 km/h for 150 metres either side of the school zones for Vellore Woods Public School and St. Emily Elementary Catholic School. The remainder of Vellore Woods Boulevard has a statutory speed limit of 50 km/h, and is identified with “50 km/h Begins” signs. Where not otherwise posted, the speed limit on municipal streets such as Ashberry Boulevard is 50 km/h. Speed limits of 30 km/h or lower cannot be posted on municipal streets as per the Highway Traffic Act.

Staff conducted radar speed studies on Vellore Woods Boulevard on September 24, 2002. The results of the studies are shown below. The area is shown on Attachment No. 1.

Location	Time	Average Speed (Compliance)	
		Northbound	Southbound

Near Timberbank Dr.	8:00 am - 9:00 am	44 km/hr (76%)	47 km/hr (63%)
Near Buckshaw Dr.	4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	45 km/hr (76%)	43 km/hr (72%)

The results of the speed studies indicate that current vehicle speeds on Vellore Woods Boulevard are not excessive, and are similar to those on equivalent streets elsewhere in the City. Speed studies were not conducted on Ashberry Boulevard because of a high amount of construction activity.

A Traffic Management Plan has been approved for Block 32 West that incorporates several raised intersections and flush-to-grade pedestrian crossings on Vellore Woods Boulevard to reduce the potential for speeding. Staff are also working with the developers of the block to incorporate additional measures to reduce the potential for speeding and discourage motorists from using Vellore Woods Boulevard as a through street or alternative to Weston Road. It is likely these additional measures will include a roundabout at the intersection of Vellore Woods Boulevard and Hawkview Boulevard, landscaping features at Rutherford Road, and No Heavy Vehicle or other signs. Once constructed, these measures should further reduce the speed and volume of traffic on Vellore Woods Boulevard.

There are ten Community Safety Zones within the City of Vaughan, as approved by Council in consultation with York Regional Police. Each zone has signs in both directions that notify motorists of the Community Safety Zone, and that fines are increased. York Regional Police has indicated willingness to provide more frequent enforcement within the ten zones, but has advised staff that they do not have the resources to provide this increased enforcement in more than ten Community Safety Zones throughout the City. Vellore Woods Boulevard or Ashberry Boulevard have not been designated as Community Safety Zones.

Signs that list the fines for motorists exceeding the speed limit are occasionally posted at intervals on certain major highways such as Highway 401. The signs list resulting fines for three example speeds above the posted speed limit, and are used as a reminder to motorists in areas where collisions or fatality rates have been high. Similar signs are not generally used on highways or streets under municipal jurisdiction, either within Community Safety Zones or elsewhere in the province.

It may be appropriate to consider such signs on certain major roads where speeding is particularly problematic or where collision rates have been high, and where the implementation of traffic calming measures is not feasible. If so directed, staff will initiate discussions with the Region of York and York Regional Police on the feasibility of posting these types of signs on certain major roads in the City. It is not recommended that the signs be posted on Vellore Woods Boulevard or other City streets where traffic calming is feasible, and where more frequent police enforcement is not likely. In general, signs that are not accompanied by police enforcement are not effective.

In consideration of the results of the studies indicating that vehicle speeds are not excessive, and the traffic calming and other measures planned for Vellore Woods Boulevard and Ashberry Boulevard, it is recommended that the speed limit on these streets not be reduced.

## **Conclusion**

Based on our review, it is recommended that the speed limit not be reduced on Vellore Woods Boulevard or Ashberry Boulevard, and that staff request that York Regional Police provide more frequent enforcement of the speed limits on these streets. It is also recommended that staff be directed to initiate discussions with the Region of York and York Regional Police on the feasibility of posting signs listing the fines for motorists exceeding the speed limit on certain major roads in the City.

**Attachments**

1. Location Map

**Report prepared by**

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Respectfully submitted,

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



MD/fc

# ATTACHMENT No. 1



## VELLORE WOODS BOULEVARD PROPOSED SPEED LIMIT

### LEGEND

-  ROADWAY UNDER REVIEW
-  EXISTING TRAFFIC SIGNALS



NOT TO SCALE

CITY OF VAUGHAN - ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

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