
Subject: Regional Road 57 (Thorold Stone Road) Speed Limit Adjustment, City of Niagara Falls

Report to: Public Works Committee

Report date: Tuesday, February 19, 2019

Recommendations

1. That a speed limit reduction **BE APPROVED** on Regional Road 57 (Thorold Stone Road), in the City of Niagara Falls, from 250 metres west of Kalar Road to the QEW, reducing the speed from 60 km/h to 50 km/h; and,
2. That the necessary by-law **BE PREPARED** and **PRESENTED** to Regional Council for consideration.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to reduce the existing posted speed limit of 60 km/h to 50 km/h.
- A petition was submitted by the residents living along Thorold Sone Road, requesting a reduction in the posted speed limit to 50km/h.
- Staff have met on site with the residents, local Councillors and the NRPS to discuss their concerns and possible solutions.
- The speed display trailer was deployed in the past for public awareness to educate drivers on the posted speed limit.

Financial Considerations

The costs to introduce the recommended changes are minimal and will be accommodated within the 2019 Operating budget.

Analysis

Staff received a petition from the residents living along Thorold Stone Road between Kalar Road and Montrose Road requesting a speed limit reduction. Regional Road 57 (Thorold Stone Road) is a major east/west arterial roadway connecting Thorold and Niagara Falls with access to King's Highway 58/406 and the QEW. The section of roadway between Kalar Road and Montrose Road has an average annual daily traffic of 22,000 vehicles. There are many homes fronting the roadway on the south side of Thorold Stone Road between Kalar Road and Montrose Road where the residents are required to reverse out of their driveways. Many residents do not feel this is safe, given the operating speeds of vehicles.

Speed studies undertaken along this section of roadway indicate that operating speeds are above the existing posted speed limit of 60km/h. Data was collected which then was applied to the warrants of the Council approved Speed Limit Policy. Results indicate that the posted speed limit along this section of roadway can be posted at either 50km/h or 60km/h. Staff are recommending that the speed limit be reduced to 50km/h. The reduction of the speed limit should lower operating speeds thereby, improving quality of life and overall safety for the residents living along the corridor.

Staff at the City of Niagara Falls have been contacted and are in support of the proposed recommendation. The Region also partnered with NRPS for speed enforcement along this stretch of Thorold Stone Road. During both on-site meetings, two local councillors of the City of Niagara Falls were both supportive of the speed limit reduction.

Notification (Starburst) signs will be posted to advise travellers that the speed limits have been changed along this stretch of Thorold Stone Road.

Alternatives Reviewed

If the speed limit were to remain at 60km/h, there would be no operational changes.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

This report is being brought forth by staff, as the result of a safety concern raised by members of the general public through to the Region. By improving public safety, it aligns with Regional Council's strategic priority in the safer Movement of People and Goods.

Other Pertinent Reports

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Recommended by:

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Appendices

Appendix 1 Map of Speed Limit Adjustment

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