
Subject: Traffic Speed Concerns, Regional Road 12 (Mountain Road), Town of Grimsby

Report to: Public Works Committee

Report date: Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Recommendations

1. That a speed limit reduction on Regional Road 12 (Mountain Road) from 200 metres north of Elm Tree Road to Kemp Road **BE APPROVED**, reducing the posted speed limit to 60km/h; and
2. That the necessary by-law **BE PREPARED** and **PRESENTED** to Council for consideration.

Key Facts

- A delegated authority report addressing speed limit adjustments, currently under draft, will be coming forward to the 2019 Public Works Committee for consideration and adaption. The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to reduce the existing posted speed limits of 70 km/h and 80 km/h, respectively, to 60 km/h, as part of road safety initiatives.
- The Town of Grimsby Council passed a resolution requesting the Region to address safety concerns on Regional Road 12 (Mountain Road).
- Staff have also received requests from residents in the area to have the speed limit reduced.
- The reduction of the posted speed limit is reflective of the land use change in the area.

Financial Considerations

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

Analysis

Staff prepared report PW 14-2019 for the February 19, 2019 Public Work Committee recommending a speed limit reduction, at which time the report was deferred. The Town of Grimsby Council at its meeting of April 15, 2019 passed a resolution requesting the Region give consideration to reducing the posted speed limit to 50km/h, painting double solid lines on the roadway and the installation of an all-way stop control with flashing lights at the intersection with Kemp Road, Appendix 2.

Regional Road 12 (Mountain Road) is a two lane arterial roadway functioning as a connector between the Township of West Lincoln and ultimately the QEW. This roadway carries a high percentage of commuter traffic. The recent development of new single dwelling homes on rural lots on both sides of Mountain Road between Elm Tree Road and Kemp Road has changed the land use to a built up area. Staff have undertaken the necessary studies by incorporating the best practices to specific design and operational effectiveness due to changes in roadway attributes. Based on the findings, Staff are recommending that the posted speed limit on Regional Road 12 (Mountain Road) between Kemp Road and 200 metres north of Elm Tree Road be adjusted to 60 km/h. The recommended speed is in conformance with speed zoning for rural built-up areas.

Staff have undertaken traffic counts and a collision analysis to determine if an all-way stop control is justified for the intersection of Mountain Road and Kemp Road. The warrants take into consideration vehicular volume, pedestrian volume, delays, collisions susceptible to correction and the traffic volume split of the major and minor roadway. Based on the latest traffic and collision data, the warrants for an all-way stop control have not been satisfied and therefore, Staff cannot recommend the installation. Stop controls are used to control the right-of-way for vehicular traffic and are not intended to be used as a speed control device.

Regional staff follow the guidelines of the Ontario Traffic Manual (OTM) Book 11 Pavement, Hazard and Delineation Markings when pavement marking Regional Roads. Markings on a two-way rural roadway are painted to allow for passing where such maneuver can be done safely, based on the minimum passing sight distances required for the posted speed limit. Mountain Road between Elm Tree Road and Kemp Road is flat with no vertical or horizontal curvature to obstruct the view of on-coming traffic and is presently marked with a skip dash centerline, allowing passing in both directions. Passing of vehicles along this section of roadway can be safely carried out, and if the markings are changed, vehicles may elect to pass anyway, especially since pavement markings are not enforceable by law.

Alternatives Reviewed

Do Nothing – this alternative was not considered given the changing landscape of this area.

A lower speed limit of 50km/h was considered. However, it was disregarded based on the existing operating speeds and geometrics of the roadway. A 50km/h posted speed would have too high of speed differentials and could lead to higher severity collisions and create a false sense of security for all road users.

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 Niagara Region and a Town of Grimsby Council resolution. By improving public safety, it aligns with Regional Council's strategic priority in the safer Movement of People and Goods.

Other Pertinent Reports

PW 14-2019, Regional Road 12 (Mountain Road) Speed Limit Adjustment, which was deferred on February 28, 2019.

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Appendices

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