
MEMORANDUM

PWC-C 15-2019

Subject: Safety Concerns, Regional Road 69 (Pelham Road) in the vicinity of Vansickle Road, City of St. Catharines

Date: June 11, 2019

To: Public Works Committee

From: Carolyn Ryall, Director, Transportation Services

Staff was notified of a safety concern, late 2017, by a group of residents regarding the operating speed of vehicles on Regional Road 69 (Pelham Road) and on Vansickle Road in the City of St. Catharines. The request specifically asked for an all-way stop control at the intersection of Pelham Road and Vansickle Road and for traffic calming measures along Pelham Road.

Regional Road 69 (Pelham Road) is a two-lane east/west urban cross-section arterial roadway with designated bicycle lanes. The average annual daily traffic is 5,400 vehicles.

Staff have undertaken traffic counts and a collision analysis to determine if an all-way stop control is justified for the intersection of Pelham Road and Vansickle 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.

Staff also undertook 48 hour speed studies to determine operating speeds along Pelham Road and also looked at the existing speed signage in the area. Results indicated that there were violations of the posted speed. The 85th percentile speed was 65 km/h. Staff requested enforcement from the Niagara Regional Police and deployed the speed display trailer to aid in the reduction of speeding and educate drivers on the posted speed in the area. Additional 50km/h signs were also installed along Pelham Road in both directions. All of the actions taken by staff were communicated to the requestors and Municipal Staff.

The implementation of speed humps was also considered on Pelham Road, but was not carried forward due to liability, operational and maintenance issues. Traffic Calming guidelines do not recommend the installation of speed humps on arterial roadways.

Staff will deploy the speed display trailers along Pelham Road throughout the year as part of the Region's Road Safety Program and will work with the Niagara Regional Police on enforcement.

Respectfully submitted and signed by,

Carolyn Ryall
Director, Transportation Services