
Subject: Community Safety Zones – Annual Review

Report to: Public Works Committee

Report date: Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Recommendations

1. That the designation of Community Safety Zones **BE APPROVED** for the Regional Road segments listed in Appendix 1 to report PW 4-2025.

Key Facts

- This report seeks Council approval for two new Community Safety Zones (CSZs) and changes to the limits of two previously approved CSZs.
- CSZs are designated sections of road where public safety is of special concern, such as near schools, retirement homes, and hospitals.
- Traffic fines are increased in CSZs; this is done to help protect vulnerable road users by encouraging drivers to slow down and drive carefully.
- Staff conduct an annual review of CSZs under the Community Safety Zone policy.
- The two new CSZs will be included in the rotation schedule of ASE cameras. The number of ASE cameras in rotation will not increase.

Financial Considerations

The cost to establish a Community Safety Zone (CSZ) is solely related to the installation of signs which has a total estimated cost of \$500 (including non-recoverable HST). These costs can be accommodated within the approved 2025 Transportation Services operating budget.

Analysis

CSZs improve safety in areas where public safety is of special concern

The purpose of a Community Safety Zone is to protect vulnerable road users by encouraging drivers to slow down and drive carefully. CSZs indicate to drivers that they are within a zone where fines are increased through a special designation under the Ontario Highway Traffic Act. “Begins” and “Ends” signs are posted to show the legal

speed limits within the area. The rules of the road do not change within a Community Safety Zone; however, the penalties for violations are increased.

Two new CSZs are recommended based on an annual review of Regional Roads

In 2023 Council adopted an updated CSZ policy that established criteria and a warrant process for designating CSZs. This policy considers factors such as traffic speeds and volumes, collision history, number of pedestrians, and the type of road and assigns a series of points to determine if a CSZ is warranted. In order to satisfy the warrant for a CSZ, a minimum score of 25 points is required.

Under this policy, staff undertake an annual review of candidate Community Safety Zone locations using updated traffic and collision data.

Two new CSZs are recommended based on the 2024 review:

- Thorold Stone Road (Regional Road 57) – Rolling Acres Drive to Stanley Avenue (Regional Road 102)
- Pelham Road (Regional Road 69) – Glendale Avenue (Regional Road 89) to First Street Louth

Updated warrant scorecards for these locations are provided in Appendix 2.

Staff recommend minor changes to the limits of two other existing CSZs

These recommended changes will extend the existing CSZs to cover areas where nearby schools and retirement homes were not originally included:

- Main Street East (Regional Road 81) – Extend the current western limit of Nelles Road North/Nelles Road South approximately 300m to Cemetery Road to incorporate the access to Nelles Public School.
- Highway 20 East (Regional Road 20) – Extend the current western limit of Pinecrest Court approximately 800m to Lookout Street to incorporate Lookout Ridge Retirement Community.

The two new CSZs will be added to the rotation schedule of ASE cameras

Niagara Region currently operates eight ASE cameras, rotating through the existing 25 Community Safety Zones approximately every 90 days. Subject to approval, the two

new CSZs recommended by this report will be included in the future rotation schedule for the ASE program.

The total number of ASE cameras in use will not change.

Alternatives Reviewed

Alternatives to the recommendations of this report follow:

- Do not approve the recommended Community Safety Zones. This is not recommended as the CSZs are warranted in accordance with Council's Community Safety Zone Policy.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

Community Safety Zones are a component of the Vision Zero Road Safety initiative which is an identified action under the 'Equitable Region' strategic focus area. The Equitable Region focus is to "provide opportunities for a safe and inclusive Niagara by listening and responding to our community needs and planning for future growth".

Other Pertinent Reports

A listing of other pertinent reports is attached as Appendix 3.

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Appendices

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| Appendix 1 | Proposed Community Safety Zones |
| Appendix 2 | Community Safety Zone Warrant Scorecards |
| Appendix 3 | Other Pertinent Reports |