

PW 12-2025
Appendix 2

Draft Procedure: Speed Limit Review

Procedure Category	Name of Procedure
Public Works	Regional Speed Limit Review Procedure

Page 1 of 4

Procedure Owner	Public Works – Director, Transportation Services
Parent Policy	C-PW-XXX Regional Speed Limit Policy
Approval Body	Corporate Leadership Team (CLT)
Approval Date	
Effective Date	
Review by Date	

1. Procedure(s)

a. General Speed Limit Procedure

Niagara Region will utilize the Canadian Guidelines for Establishing Posted Speed Limits (Transportation Association of Canada, 2009) as a basis for evaluating and establishing speed limits.

The process for evaluating recommended speed limits for Regional Roads is detailed below.

1. Inquiry Received: The inquiry is received by Regional staff from the public, Council, or other internal Regional group.
2. Initial Response: An initial response is provided to the inquirer to confirm receipt of inquiry and provide details on next steps and timelines.
3. Desktop Review: A desktop background is completed, consisting of gathering data related to the inquiry, including existing conditions, traffic data, and corresponding inquiries.
4. Data Collection and Analysis: Data collection includes Automatic Traffic Recorder (ATR), and site investigations as required.
5. TAC Guideline Recommendation: The reviewer uses the procedures outlined in the Canadian Guidelines for Establishing Posted Speed Limits to establish the recommended speed limit for the section of road.
6. Final Response: A final response is provided to the inquirer to share the outcome of the analysis and the Region's decision and recommendation.
7. Implementation: Implementation of any countermeasures identified during the review process and preparation of required memorandum and by-law recommendation.

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b. School Area Procedure

School Area Criteria

Regional staff will undertake a desktop review and conduct field studies as required to determine school area locations on Regional Roads.

In order for a school area to be introduced at a location, a minimum of two (2) of the following criteria must be met.

1. Front on the Regional Road.
2. Be adjacent to the Regional Road (i.e., school building within 150 metres of Regional Road).
3. Have a primary access or a student pick-up / drop-off zone be on or accessed from the Regional Road.
4. There is an existing or planned supervised school crossing on the Regional Road.

Reduced Speed Limits in School Areas Criteria

If a school area has been identified, staff will determine if a lowered speed limit is required. Regional staff will undertake a desktop review and conduct field studies as required to determine reduced speeds for school areas on Regional Roads.

In order for a reduced speed limit within a School Area to be introduced, a minimum of three (3) of the following criteria must be met.

1. Front on the Regional Road and have a primary access or a student pick-up / drop-off zone be on or accessed from the Regional Road.
2. Have a controlled or supervised pedestrian crossing servicing the school.
3. Have a two (2) or three (3) lane cross-section.
4. Have a minimum of 100 student pedestrians walking to the school within a 24-hour period.

Reduced speed limits in school areas are to be reduced based on the guidelines outlined in Table 1.

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Table 1: School Area Speed Reduction Guideline

Existing or Posted Speed Limit	Reduced Posted Speed Limit
40 km/h or below	Speed to remain as is
50 km/h	40 km/h
60 km/h	50 km/h
70 km/h or above	60 km/h ¹

¹Transitional speed limits to be used in intervals of 20 km/h maximum.

2. Purpose

- Outline the implementation of speed limits as a component of Niagara Region's Vision Zero initiative.
- Implement the setting of speed limits based on established industry guidelines and best practices.
- Follow criteria for implementation of reduced speed limits within school areas.

3. Scope

This procedure applies to Transportation Services staff, providing guidance for making recommendations to Council for setting speed limits on Regional roads.

3.1. Roles and Responsibilities

Director, Transportation Services – notify Regional Council and seek approval for updated by-laws for speed limit changes in accordance with delegated authority provided via report PW5-2020.

Transportation Road Safety Staff - Undertake speed limit reviews in accordance with the Speed Limit Review procedure.

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4. Document Control

The electronic version of this document is recognized as the only valid version.

Approval History

Approver(s)	Approved Date	Effective Date

Revision History

Revision No.	Date	Summary of Change(s)	Changed by