



Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

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REPORT #: OPS-24-024 **COMMITTEE DATE:** 2024-06-18
REPORT TO: COTW-General **DUE IN COUNCIL:** 2024-06-25
SUBJECT: East and West Line Speed Limit Reduction and Traffic By-Law Amendment

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is respectfully recommended that:

- 1.1 Council approves a posted speed limit of 70 km/hour on East and West Line between Lakeshore Road and 495 meters west of Four Mile Creek Road; and
- 1.2 Council directs the Town Clerk to amend "Schedule W – Speed Limits on Highways" of Traffic and Parking By-law No. 4308-09 (**Appendix I**) to provide for the above-noted speed limit changes and housekeeping edits to address previous changes; and
- 1.3 Council directs Staff to install the necessary signage to implement the above-noted speed limit changes and issue the necessary public notices at an estimated cost of \$3,300.00 to be charged to Capital Project Account C00450 – Speed Limits.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Council passed a motion to reduce the posted speed limit from 80 km/hour to 70 km/hour along East and West Line between Lakeshore Road and Four Mile Creek Road.
- This will result in a posted speed limit of 70 km/hour between Lakeshore Road and Niagara River Parkway except for a school/church/urban 50 km/hour zone from Four Mile Creek Road to a point 495 meters west of Four Mile Creek Road.
- The Town will carry out traffic speed investigations prior to and after the implementation of the reduced post speed limit and report those details back to Council as part of our annual Traffic Data Collection and Speed Minder Program.
- In addition, there is a need to complete a housekeeping update of the by-law to address inconsistency with previous decisions and current posted speed limits.

3. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval of Council to amend the Traffic and Parking By-Law to implement the following regulation:

- “Reduced Speed Limit” of 70 km/hour on East and West Line between Lakeshore Road and 495 meters west of Four Mile Creek Road and between Niagara Stone Road and Niagara River Parkway.

4. BACKGROUND

On April 16, 2024, information report OPS-24-018 was received at the Committee of the Whole meeting as a follow up to a June 20, 2023, Council motion directing staff to conduct an updated traffic speed study investigation along East and West Line between Four Mile Creek Road and Lakeshore Road.

Upon discussion of the information report, it was moved that:

“Council direct Staff to lower the speed limit to 70 km/hour on East and West Line from Creek Rd to Lakeshore; and

That Staff be directed to do the speed minder test and return to Council with a report containing the assessment data; and

That Staff evaluate the impact from the reduction to 70 km/hour and if it should be revisited, as part of the speed minder reports.”

That motion was approved directing staff accordingly to reduce the posted speed limit in the noted portion of road.

5. STRATEGIC PLAN

The content of this report supports the following Strategic Plan initiatives:

Pillar

3. Enrich Community Assets, Environment, & Infrastructure

Priority

3.3 Infrastructure

Action

3.3 a) Infrastructure Investment (Physical & Green)

6. OPTIONS

- 6.1 **Option 1:** That Council approves the proposed speed limit reduction to 70 km/hour on East and West Line between Lakeshore Road and 495 meters west of Four Mile Creek Road and between Niagara Stone Road and Niagara River Parkway; and **(Recommended)**
- 6.2 Option 2: That Council maintains the status quo on East and West Line. *(Not Recommended as the road would not meet TAC Guidelines for continuity and appropriate speed limits)*

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Implementation of the posted speed limit signage will require 11 speed limit signs at an estimated total cost of \$3,300.00. The cost of \$300 per sign includes locates and posts if necessary, preparation, hardware, signs (speed limit and “New” advisory signs) and labour. All costs related to these installations are to be charged to the “Speed Limit” (C00450) capital project account. Staff will also determine if any additional signage may be required to facilitate the changes and will charge any related costs to the same account.

Enforcement of the new parking prohibitions and the 70 km/hour, speed limit are expected to be cost/revenue neutral.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

9. COMMUNICATIONS

Upon Council approval of the By-law:

- Staff will work with the Communications Division on a social media campaign to inform of the changes to East and West Line.
- Supporting speed limit signage will be erected as soon as practicable advising motorists of the speed limit change, including “New” tabs for 90 days to highlight the change in speed.
- After the signs are posted, public notice of the changed speed limit will be provided for two weeks before enforcement commences.
- The Niagara Regional Police will be provided with a copy of the amended By-law and requested to begin enforcing the new speed limit.

10. CONCLUSION

Implementation of the reduced posted speed limit along East and West Line will address the concerns noted by residents through the petition received by the Town including the subsequent motion passed by Council directing staff to reduce the posted speed limit. The implementation is supported by staff as it is consistent with municipal best practices and the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) guidelines to establish appropriate speed limits for our roadways.

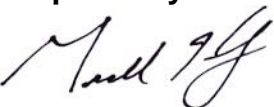


11. PREVIOUS REPORTS

N/A

12. APPENDICES

- **Appendix I** – Parking and Traffic By-Law 4308AS-24 - Amendment Schedule W

Respectfully submitted:

Prepared by:  Mike Komljenovic Engineering Supervisor, Operations Department	
Recommended by:  Darren MacKenzie Director (A), Operations Department	Submitted by:  Bruce Zvaniga Chief Administrative Officer (Interim)