
HALDIMAND COUNTY

Report ENG-11-2023 Speed Limit Reduction – Sims Lock Road

For Consideration by Council in Committee on May 23, 2023



OBJECTIVE:

To receive Council approval to create a 30 km/h speed limit zone on Sims Lock Road from Haldimand Road 54 to Haldimand Road 54.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Report ENG-11-2023 Speed Limit Reduction – Sims Lock Road be received;
2. AND THAT the Rate of Speed By-law be amended to create the 30 km/h speed limit zone on Sims Lock Road and Abbey Road as follows:

Street	From	To	Speed Limit
Sims Lock Road	Haldimand Road 54	Haldimand Road 54	30 km/h
Abbey Road	Haldimand Road 54	Sims Lock Road	30 km/h

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Respectfully submitted: Tyson Haedrich, M. Eng., P. Eng., General Manager of Engineering & Capital Works

Approved: Cathy Case, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Prior to her resignation, the Ward 4 Councillor received a request for a reduction of the posted speed limit to 30 km/h from residents living on Sims Lock Road. The request was largely driven by the number of pedestrians on the road as it forms part of the Rotary Riverside Trail running from Caledonia to York.

The process to review the speed limit was initiated and a letter was sent to the thirty-four residents on Sims Lock Road to receive feedback on the speed reduction request. Seventeen responses were received in support of the speed reduction and no responses were received in opposition. The current posted speed of Sims Lock Road is 50 km/h.

Staff have reviewed the current 50 km/h speed limit on Sims Lock Road and based on the criteria in the Speed Limit Policy are recommending reducing the speed limit to 30 km/h.

BACKGROUND:

The local Councillor has received a request from residents on Sims Lock Road to reduce the current 50 km/h posted speed limit to 30 km/h. The request was largely driven by the number of pedestrians

on the road as it forms part of the Rotary Riverside Trail running from Caledonia to York and the fact that there are no sidewalks and very narrow shoulders.

Sims Lock Road is a rural road located along Haldimand Road 54 between Caledonia and York (see Attachment 1). The road is a paved surface with a width of about 5.5 metres and narrow grassed shoulders that begins approximately 700 metres west of Abby Road and reconnects to Haldimand Road 54 approximately 300 metres east of Abby Road. There is also a short stub of Abbey Road that extends from Haldimand Road 54 to Sims Lock Road.

The purpose of this report is to review the request using the County's Speed Limit Policy and provide a recommendation to Council regarding the requested speed limit reduction.

ANALYSIS:

Policy 2007-02 Speed Limit Policy (see References) provides the recommended speed limits for urban and rural cross sections based on the road classification.

Based on the intended usage and traffic volumes, Sims Lock Road is classified as a local road with a rural cross section. As shown in Table 1 of the policy, the urban section speed limit should be 50 km/h and the rural section speed limit should be 50-60 km/h.

In order to evaluate the current posted speed limits, staff conducted a visual review of the existing conditions on Sims Lock Road as the policy also provides for the evaluation criteria to determine if a posted speed limit other than those recommended in Table 1 should be considered. Using these criteria staff have evaluated the posted speed as follows:

Constrained by physical characteristics <ul style="list-style-type: none">Narrow road widthNarrow or no shouldersPart of the Rotary Riverside Trail running between Caledonia and York	Yes
Constrained by adjacent land uses and associated land use	No
Required for heightened safety in sensitive areas such as school zones	No
Required for safe operation temporarily in a construction zone	No
Evidenced by a significantly higher than normal frequency or severity of accidents attributable to excessive speeds	No
The recommended level from Table 1 (Haldimand Policy 2007-02) is shown to be higher than the inferred design speed	No

To further gather community input for the speed reduction, the local Councillor distributed a letter regarding the proposed speed limit change to the thirty-four residents on Sims Lock Road and received responses from seventeen in support of the speed reduction with no correspondence received in opposition to the speed reduction.

A reduction of the posted speed to 30 km/h is appropriate for Sims Lock Road, based on the rationale for the "Yes" evaluation criteria in the Speed Limit Policy and the support demonstrated through the community outreach.

FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Roads Operations will be responsible for installing the required signage. The estimated cost is approximately \$1,200 and will be funded from the Roads Operations regulatory/warning signing operating budget.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACTS:

Not applicable.

REPORT IMPACTS:

Agreement: No

By-law: Yes

Budget Amendment: No

Policy: No

REFERENCES:

1. [Speed Limit Policy 2007-02](#)

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Map of proposed 30 km/h speed limit.