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# HALDIMAND COUNTY

## Report PW-ES-05-2018 West Concession 7 Walpole and Townline Road Speed Reduction

For Consideration by Council in Committee on April 24, 2018

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### OBJECTIVE:

To provide Council with the results of a speed limit reduction evaluation for West Concession 7 Walpole and Townline Road between Jarvis and Townsend.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Report PW-ES-05-2018 West Concession 7 Walpole and Townline Road Speed Reduction be received;
2. AND THAT the request for speed limit reduction from 80 km/h to 60 km/h on West Concession 7 Walpole and Townline Road be denied.

**Prepared by:** Tyson Haedrich, M. Eng., P. Eng., Director, Engineering Services

**Respectfully submitted:** Paul Mungar, C.E.T., CMM III, General Manager of Public Works

**Approved:** Donald G. Boyle, Chief Administrative Officer

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Council approved Speed Limit Policy provides staff with a consistent way of addressing requests for speed limit reductions.

Based on an evaluation of the request with the criteria in the Speed Limit Policy, staff are recommending that the request for a reduction in the speed limit from 80 km/h to 60 km/h on West Concession 7 Walpole and Townline Road be denied.

### BACKGROUND:

At the October 3, 2017 Council in Committee meeting, staff were given direction through the following resolution:

*“THAT staff be directed to report back to a future Council in Committee meeting on reducing the speed limit from 80 kilometres per hour to 60 kilometres per hour on West Concession 7 Walpole and Townline 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 Attachment 1) provides the recommended speed limits for urban and rural cross sections based on the road classification.

Based on their intended usage and traffic volumes, West Concession 7 Walpole and Townline Road (see Attachment 2) are classified as collector roads. As shown in Table 1 of the policy, the rural section speed limit should be 70-80 km/h for both roads. Both roads currently have a posted speed limit of 80 km/h.

Traffic data was collected on West Concession 7 Walpole approximately halfway between Old Highway 3 and Townline Road in October 2017 and again in December 2017 because in November the new construction at Parkview Meadows permanently prevented access from Keith Richardson Parkway through the site to Townline Road.

The analysis of the traffic data for vehicle counts and speed are as follows:

| Data Set                  | Average Annual Daily Traffic | 85 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Speed | % of Vehicles Travelling Faster than 60 km/h |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| October 2017 (Eastbound)  | 98 vehicles                  | 80 km/h                           | 72%  |
| October 2017 (Westbound)  | 115 vehicles                 | 83 km/h                           | 74%  |
| December 2017 (Eastbound) | 104 vehicles                 | 86 km/h                           | 84%  |
| December 2017 (Westbound) | 117 vehicles                 | 89 km/h                           | 87%  |

It should be noted that following the closure of the Keith Richardson Parkway access, the traffic count remained the same, however the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile traffic speed increased by approximately 6 km/h.

According to the Speed Limit Policy the following additional considerations were also evaluated:

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Constrained by physical characteristics   | No |
| Constrained by adjacent land uses and associated activities   | 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, or | No |
| The recommended level in Table 1 (Haldimand Policy 2007-02) is shown to be higher than the inferred design speed        | No |

Based on the data collected, the existing conditions and the Speed Limit Policy, staff are recommending that the existing speed limit of 80 km/h on West Concession 7 Walpole and Townline Road not be reduced to 60 km/h for the following reasons:

- The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is slightly above the posted speed limit.
- There are no additional considerations according to the Speed Limit Policy.
- More than 70% of the vehicles are travelling faster than 60 km/h.
- The low traffic counts (and 98% car traffic) make this route a low risk to cyclists/pedestrians.

It should be noted that based on the existing conditions and staff experience, lowering the posted speed limit will have little effect on vehicle speed.

## **FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Not applicable.

## **STAKEHOLDER IMPACTS:**

Not applicable.

## **REPORT IMPACTS:**

Agreement: No

By-law: No

Budget Amendment: No

Policy: No

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Policy 2007-02 Speed Limit Policy.
2. Map showing location of the requested speed limit reduction on West Concession 7 Walpole and Townline Road.