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TEMPORARY SPEED ZONES 2006 ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, August 23, 2006, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Temporary 60-km per hour speed zones be adopted on the following roadways with the implementation occurring between September 21, 2006, and project completion and only as necessary during the actual construction activities:
 - a) Major Mackenzie Drive (Y.R. 25), from Kennedy Road (Y.R. 3) to 100 metres west of the west limit of Leslie Street (Y.R. 12), in the Towns of Markham and Richmond Hill.
 - b) 16th Avenue (Y.R. 73), from Warden Avenue (Y.R. 65) to Kennedy Road (Y.R. 3), in the Town of Markham.
 - c) Davis Drive (Y.R. 31), from 500 metres east of Warden Avenue (Y.R. 65) to 500 metres west of Warden Avenue (Y.R. 65), in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.
 - d) Warden Avenue (Y.R. 65), from 500 metres south of Davis Drive (Y.R. 31) to 500 metres north of Davis Drive (Y.R. 31), in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.
 - e) Mount Albert Road (Y.R. 13), from 600 metres east of Warden Avenue (Y.R. 65) to 600 metres west of Warden Avenue (Y.R. 65), in the Town of East Gwillimbury.
 - f) Warden Avenue (Y.R. 65), from 500 metres south of Mount Albert Road (Y.R. 13) to 500 metres north of Mount Albert Road (Y.R. 13), in the Town of East Gwillimbury.
2. The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary by-laws.
3. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the Chief of York Regional Police, Clerks of the Towns of East Gwillimbury, Markham, Richmond Hill and Whitchurch-Stouffville.

4. York Regional Police be requested to assist in the enforcement of these temporary speed zones, as their resources permit.

2. PURPOSE

This report is prepared to gain Regional Council approval to temporarily change the regulatory speed limits within construction zones for the 2006 Capital Roads Program. A Regional by-law is required under the *Highway Traffic Act* with appropriate posting of signs before any of the proposed speed limits can be enforced.

3. BACKGROUND

A number of projects scheduled for construction in 2006 occur on two-lane roadways with speed limits in excess of 60-km per hour (*see Attachments 1 - 4*). The nature of road construction activities routinely require the temporary restriction of traffic on the travelled roadway. To safely carry out construction and control traffic control persons are used on the roadway.

As of March 31, 2006, the *Highway Traffic Act* has been amended to include provisions dealing with the fine structure for speeding in construction zones. The fine structure essentially doubles fines for motorists who speed through designated construction zones. In order to designate a construction zone, proper signage notifying motorists that they are entering a construction zone must be in place. It will be the contractor's responsibility to install these identification signs as part of their work.

To address this potential safety issue for both the travelling public and the construction workers, temporary reduced speed zones are routinely implemented.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

With a reduction of the maximum regulatory speed limit in construction areas, traffic control can be carried out in a safe and efficient manner especially, with police enforcement. It is proposed for the sections of roads where construction is scheduled for 2006, temporary speed limit reductions should be implemented. The proposed locations are as follows:

- Major Mackenzie Drive, from Kennedy Road to 100 metres west of the west limit of Leslie Street, in the Towns of Markham and Richmond Hill, where the existing speed limit of 70-km per hour and 80-km per hour will be posted with a temporary speed limit of 60-km per hour (*see Attachment 1*).

- 16th Avenue, from Warden Avenue to Kennedy Road, in the Town of Markham, where the existing speed limit of 70-km per hour will be posted with a temporary speed limit of 60-km per hour (*see Attachment 2*).
- Davis Drive, from 500 metres east of Warden Avenue to 500 metres west of Warden Avenue, in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, where the existing speed limit of 80-km per hour will be posted with a temporary speed limit of 60-km per hour (*see Attachment 3*).
- Warden Avenue, from 500 metres south of Davis Drive to 500 metres north of Davis Drive, in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, where the existing speed limit of 70-km per hour will be posted with a temporary speed limit of 60-km per hour (*see Attachment 3*).
- Mount Albert Road, from 600 metres east of Warden Avenue to 600 metres west of Warden Avenue (Y.R. 65), in the Town of East Gwillimbury, where the existing speed limit of 80-km per hour will be posted with a temporary speed limit of 60-km per hour (*see Attachment 4*).
- Warden Avenue, from 500 metres south of Mount Albert Road to 500 metres north of Mount Albert Road, in the Town of East Gwillimbury, where the existing speed limit of 70-km per hour will be posted with a temporary speed limit of 60-km per hour (*see Attachment 4*).

The temporary speed limit reductions will be implemented only for as long as necessary for actual construction operations and will be rescinded as soon as the work is complete.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs associated with the manufacturing and installations of the necessary speed limit signs are included in the proposed 2006 Capital Roads Budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

There are no local municipal implications associated with this report. However, the safety of all road users and construction workers within construction areas is of continuous mutual concern.

7. CONCLUSION

It is proposed that temporary speed limits, as outlined in this report, be implemented for the 2006 road construction season. The temporary speed limits will be in effect during the duration of construction only. Upon project completion, the original posted speed limit, in accordance with the existing by-laws, will be re-instated.

In order for the temporary speed limits to be enforced, the Regional Solicitor should be directed to prepare the necessary by-laws. The Regional Clerk should forward this report to the Clerks of the affected local municipalities and to the Chief of York Regional Police with a request to assist in enforcement, as their resources permit.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachments referred to in this clause are attached to this report.)