

<b>TITLE: ESTABLISHING SPEED LIMITS ON REGIONAL ROADS</b>	<b>Edocs No.: 84041</b> <b>Original Approval Date: September 23, 2004</b> <b>Last Updated: April 21, 2011</b>
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**POLICY STATEMENT:**

This policy describes the process used to establish speed limits on Regional roads.

**APPLICATION:**

To all Regional Transportation Services staff responsible for recommending speed limit revisions on the Regional road network.

**PURPOSE:**

This policy is to put in place consistent processes and criteria to establish speed limits on the Regional road network.

**DEFINITIONS:**

**Urban Road**

A road that is located within an urban area as defined by the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) speed limit guidelines.

**Rural Road**

A road that is located in a rural area as defined by the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) speed limit guidelines.

**School Zone**

The section of any Regional road that is contiguous to a school with a minimum of 200 registered students.

**Speed Limit Review Study**

A review of the operating characteristics and infrastructure data for a roadway to determine the appropriate speed limit. For the purposes of this policy, the review will apply the Canadian Guidelines for Establishing Posted Speed Limits as produced by the Transportation Association of Canada, as updated from time-to-time. This approach considers roadside environment, access density, roadway alignment, lane widths, pedestrian and cyclist activity and pavement condition.

**DESCRIPTION:**

The Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) Guidelines for Establishing Posted Speed Limits is the proposed method of establishing maximum speed limits on Regional roads. The TAC Guideline considers the following roadway elements:

- Number of access driveways
- Visibility
- Traffic volumes
- Number of lanes
- Roadside hazards
- Pedestrian and cyclist exposure
- Presence of on-street parking
- Volumes of pedestrians and cyclists
- Number of properties that front onto the roadway
- Number and frequency of signalized intersections
- Presence of public transit

The process to implement a speed limit revision on a Regional road is:

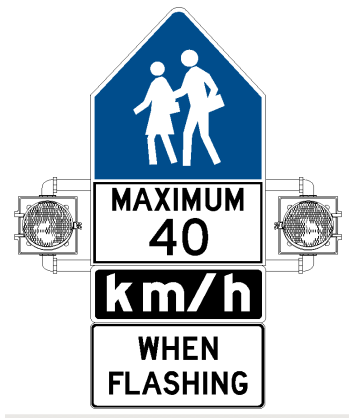
1. Road section identified to Regional staff for consideration of potential speed limit change through request, complaints or staff review.
2. Regional staff review the road section in accordance with the Transportation Association of Canada guidelines and the speed limits on Regional roads policy, as described in Attachment 1, to make a recommendation regarding the appropriate posted speed limit.
3. Regional staff consult with local municipal staff on the proposed changes and obtain their input.
4. Regional staff report through the Transportation Services Committee to Regional Council, on a bi-annual basis, with recommended speed limit changes for Council's consideration.

**SCHOOL ZONES**

The need for a school zone speed limit will be determined by staff considering the individual situation. To be eligible for a school zone speed limit, the roadway must border a school with a minimum of 200 registered students. A school zone speed limit may be up to 20 kilometres-per-hour lower than the speed limit on the adjacent road sections. The lowest maximum speed limit that is permitted under the Highway Traffic Act of Ontario (RSO 1990) is 40 kilometres-per-hour. The lower speed limit will be applicable to the section of road that fronts the school and for 150 metres along the road on either side of the school property. The lowered speed limit may be extended if it results in an adjacent speed limit that is shorter than desired.

If a school zone speed limit is warranted, the school zone speed limit shall be in effect during the times of the day that students are walking to and from school. The school zone speed limit will be delineated using the sign shown in Figure 2.

**Figure 2**  
School Zone Speed Limit Sign



The maximum speed limit when the 40 kilometres-per-hour speed limit is not in effect will be determined using the remainder of this policy.

**REFERENCE:**

Amends original policy – Council authority September 23, 2004, Transportation and Works Report 8, Clause 6

**CONTACT:**

Director, Traffic Management and Intelligent Transportation Systems

<b>APPROVAL INFORMATION</b>		
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