

Info # 1



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Item No.
North West Community Council
January 27, 2011

TO: Chair and Members of North West Community Council

SUBMITTED BY: _____
Ken Reashor, P.Eng., Director, Transportation and Public Works

DATE: January 13, 2011

SUBJECT: Hammonds Plain Road Speed Limit

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

This report originates from concerns expressed by local area residents at the North West Community Council meeting on November 25, 2010, item 7.1.1. (ii) with respect to the speed limits along the Hammonds Plains Road.

BACKGROUND

The Community Council passed a motion recommending that speed limits be reduced between Pockwock Road and Glen Arbour Way to 50 km/h, 60 km/h between Glen Arbour Way and Crestfield Drive and 50km/h from Crestfield Drive to Kearney Lake Road.

DISCUSSION

Hammonds Plains Road is classified as an arterial roadway, connecting to Highway 102 in Bedford and to Highway 103 in Stillwater Lake. The speed limit on Hammonds Plains Road is currently 70 km/h, with a design speed of 80 km/h.

The area of Hammonds Plains Road under analysis is approximately five kilometres in length from the intersection with Pockwock Road to the intersection of Kearney Lake Road. Along this section there are nine intersections with public roadways, including traffic signals at Pockwock Road, Lucasville Road, Kingswood Drive, and Kearney Lake Road. The area was studied as a whole, as well as three homogeneous segments – Pockwock Road to Glen Arbour Way, Glen Arbour Way to Crestfield Drive and Crestfield Drive to Kearney Lake Road.

The Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) manual states that “drivers do not necessarily adjust their speeds to an arbitrarily chosen design speed for a roadway, but to the physical limitations and the prevailing traffic conditions”. As such, TAC has developed guidelines to aid in determining proper speed limits based on geometric conditions of the roadway. This is a useful tool in reviewing previously established speed zones, and takes into consideration road class, roadway curvature, pedestrian and cyclist exposure, intersections and driveways, etc. Whether Hammonds Plains Road is analyzed as a whole or as three separate sections, the warrant recommends that 70 km/h is the correct posted speed.

There are many rural arterials throughout the region with a 70km/h speed limit that allow pedestrians and are routes for transit and school buses. HRM cannot reduce speed limits on all arterial roadways simply because they are routes for school buses.

Nearly every street has a small sampling of traffic that will drive excessively above the speed limit. There is a common misconception that lowering the posted speed limit will cause motorists to react accordingly. However, experience has proven that unrealistically low speed limits will invite violation by otherwise responsible drivers. Given the above, 70 km/h is the appropriate speed limit for this roadway section.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality’s Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Project and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Project and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

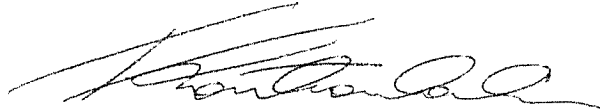
Community engagement was not deemed to be necessary in this process because decisions were based on operational procedures.

ATTACHMENTS

N/A

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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