

**Western Region Community Council**  
**May 28, 2012**

**TO:** Chair and Members of Western Region Community Council



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

**DATE:** April 23, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Village Road Speed Limit Reduction

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**INFORMATION REPORT**

**ORIGIN**

Item 12.2, raised at the February 27, 2012 meeting of Western Region Community Council.

**BACKGROUND**

MOVED by Councillor Adams and seconded by Councillor Lund that the Western Region Community Council request a staff report on reducing the speed limit on Village Road, Herring Cove from 50 km/h to 40 km/h.

Village Road is a 1.2km long local street, connecting Ketch Harbour Road to John Brackett Drive. It is primarily a residential street and contains access to the Herring Cove Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Councillor Adams explained that Village Road is a narrow, winding road with narrow shoulders and ditches that require residents to walk along the road edge. A concerned resident also noted that a resident in a wheelchair also uses this road as well as dog walkers/other pedestrians. The route is becoming used more frequently as a short cut to and from the local take out. Due to the design of the road, it is requested that the speed limit be reduced to 40 km/h.

## **DISCUSSION**

Currently, the Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act states that 50 km/h is the lowest speed limit which can be posted for streets in the province.

However, section 104 of the Act states that:

*“Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this Act, the Minister or a traffic authority with the approval of the Provincial Traffic Authority may fix such maximum rates of speed as he may see fit to approve for motor vehicles traversing any part or portion of a highway and may erect and maintain signs containing notification of such rate of speed so fixed and approved by him, and thereafter while such signs remain so erected and displayed the operator or driver of any vehicle exceeding the rate of speed so fixed and approved shall be guilty of an offence.”*

On April 17, 2012 Halifax Regional Council endorsed the draft correspondence included as “Attachment A” of the Transportation Standing Committee report dated March 26, 2012 to the Provincial Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal requesting consideration be given to allow the HRM Traffic Authority to post maximum speed limits lower than 50 km/h.

If permission is granted to do so, guidelines will be developed for implementing lower speed limits based on an assessment of data including, but not limited to traffic volumes, speeds, width, geometry and bicycle and pedestrian activity.

Staff will collect speed and traffic volume data on Village Road as part of the annual data collection program. If permission is granted to allow the HRM Traffic Authority to post speed limits below 50 km/h, Village Road will be reviewed to determine if a lower speed limit is appropriate based on established guidelines.

## **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.

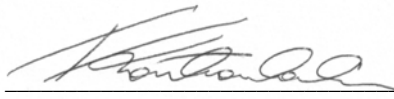
**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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

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

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Report Approved by: Taso Koutroulakis, P.Eng., A/Manager, Traffic and Right of Way Services, 490-4816

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