



Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal
Office of the Minister

PO Box 186, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2N2

June 11, 2012

HALIFAX REGIONAL
MUNICIPALITY

JUL 03 2012
S.G. *[Signature]*
MUNICIPAL CLERK

Halifax Regional Municipality

JUN 18 2012
Office of the Mayor

His Worship Peter Kelly
Mayor
Halifax Regional Municipality
PO Box 1749
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

Dear Mayor Kelly:

Thank you for your May 4, 2012, letter requesting consideration be given to allow the HRM Traffic Authority to post maximum speed limits lower than 50 km/h.

In 2003, a joint technical study was completed between my Department and Halifax Regional Municipality to investigate the merits and demonstrated benefits of speed limits lower than 50 km/h. A pilot project was conducted, with 40 km/h speed limits being approved by the Department for four streets in the Clayton Park/Rockingham area.

My understanding is that speed samples were taken by HRM while those speed limits were in place. The speed studies did not indicate any reduction in speed measured when the speed limit was reduced from 50 km/h and 40 km/h. As a result, representatives from both the Municipality and the Province accepted the technical results that indicated there were no measurable benefits for speed limits less than 50 km/h. Consequently, the Department did not entertain any legislative amendments to the *Motor Vehicle Act* to allow reduced speed limits below 50 km/h at that time.

I should note, however, recent legislation to reduce the speed in school zones to 30 km/hr on roads with an existing 50 km/hr speed limit, will come into effect this Fall.

If you have further inquiries on this topic, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

[Signature of Maurice Smith]

Maurice Smith
Minister

c: Brian Ward, Director, Highway Engineering Services
Kent Speiran, A/Manager, Traffic Engineering Services


MUNICIPAL CLERKS OFFICE

Distributed to:

- Councillors Meeting *Regional Council*
- Mayor
- CAO
- DCAO
- Solicitor
- Communications, *G. Keefe*
- Other *C. Bryant, S. MacKinlay, K. Marsh, J. Keagle*

Date: *April 17/12*

Item No. *10.4.1*



Halifax Regional Municipality



May 4, 2012

HALIFAX REGIONAL
MUNICIPALITY

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MUNICIPAL CLERK

Honourable Bill Estabrooks
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal
2nd Floor, Johnston Building
1672 Granville Street
P.O. Box 186
Halifax, NS B3J 3Z8

Dear Minister Estabrooks:

Current legislation in the Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act allows that the lowest maximum speed limit permitted to be posted on any highway in the Province is 50 km/h. Halifax Regional Council requests that consideration be given to allow the HRM Traffic Authority to post maximum speed limits lower than 50 km/h.

It is becoming increasingly more common for staff to receive complaints from residents regarding vehicle speed on their roadway in their neighbourhood. This is especially so where the actual speed of traffic may not be illegal, but is deemed inappropriate given the prevailing conditions. Roadway design deficiencies such as narrow travel ways, lack of sidewalks, narrow road shoulders and irregularities in alignment as well as abutting property features such as driveway locations are not always able to be addressed through roadway improvements.

The posting of a lower speed limit is viewed as one way to assist staff in addressing the concerns of residents and creating a safer walking and driving environment for all road users.

Your consideration of this request would be most appreciated.

Respectfully, I remain


Peter Kelly
Mayor

cc - Halifax Regional Municipality

MUNICIPAL CLERKS OFFICE

Distributed to:

- Councillors Meeting *Regional Council*
 - Mayor
 - CAO Date: *April 11/12*
 - DCAO
 - Solicitor Item No: *11-41*
 - Communications
 - Other *Co. Request - Mr. Kelly*
- J. Kelly*