

The Regional Municipality of York

Committee of the Whole
Transportation Services
May 13, 2021

Report of the Acting Commissioner of Transportation Services

Reduced Speed Limits in School Zones

1. Recommendations

1. The Establishing Speed Limits on Regional Roads policy be updated to include the new school zone maximum speed sign introduced by the Province.
2. Existing speed limits on Regional roads in all school zones identified in Attachment 1 be reduced by 10 km/h.
3. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to the Clerks of local municipalities, public school boards and the Chief of York Regional Police.
4. The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary bylaws.

2. Summary

This report seeks Council approval to apply a consistent approach in school zones adjacent to Regional roads, through the reduction of speed limits by 10 km/h and use of a single new school zone maximum speed sign introduced by the Province.

Key Points:

- The Province has introduced a new school zone maximum speed sign with a reduced speed limit to allow the use of automated speed enforcement in school zones
- A 10 km/h reduced speed limit in school locations and use of the new school zone maximum speed sign will promote consistency, ease of enforcement and facilitate the use of automated speed enforcement
- School boards, York Regional Police and local municipal staff were consulted and are, in principle, supportive of a Region-wide harmonized approach in reducing speed limits in school zones
- The Region is prepared to manufacture and supply the new school zone maximum speeds signs at no cost to local municipalities at existing locations, to create a consistent application Region-wide

3. Background

The Region's speed limit policy allows for reduced speed limits in school areas using school zone maximum speed when flashing signs

In April 2011, Council approved the [Establishing Speed Limits on Regional Roads](#) policy (Policy), which is based on guidelines provided by the Transportation Association of Canada. The Policy allows for a reduced speed limit of up to 20 km/h lower using school zone maximum speed when flashing signs on an identified section of road.

Several versions of signs are currently used in school zones connecting to Regional roads

There are 64 elementary and secondary schools adjacent to Regional roads. Forty-two have school area signs (Figure 1), eight have school area with flashing beacons signs (Figure 2) and 14 have school zone maximum speed when flashing signs (Figure 3). School zone maximum speed when flashing signs include a reduced speed limit during school start, lunch hour and dismissal. Flashing signs operate at various times Region-wide without advertising the times, days and months to the motoring public, which precludes the use of automated speed enforcement.

Figure 1
School Area Sign



42 schools

Figure 2
School Area with Flashing Beacons Sign



8 schools

Figure 3
School Zone Maximum Speed When Flashing Sign



14 schools

The Province has introduced a new school zone maximum speed sign with a reduced speed limit to allow the use of automated speed enforcement in school zones

On August 28, 2020, the *Highway Traffic Act* amended Regulation 615 for a school zone maximum speed sign (Figure 4) to include the times, days and months to inform motorists when the reduced speed limit is in effect. Under Regulation 615, the use of flashing beacons with the new school zone maximum speed sign is not permitted. The new sign permits the use of automated speed enforcement and addresses evidentiary concerns by advertising the times, days and months when the lower rate is in effect.

Figure 4
New School Zone Maximum Speed Sign



4. Analysis

Reducing speed limits in school areas will help improve traveller safety and protect our most vulnerable road users

School areas throughout the Region experience different modes of travel by students to get to and from school, including walking, cycling and rolling. As the Region continues to grow, pedestrian and cycling volumes are increasingly putting greater demand on motorist attention. Rates of injuries sustained by pedestrians and cyclists remain a concern. While 24% of vehicle-only collisions result in injuries or fatalities, almost all pedestrian (94%) and cycling (82%) collisions result in injury or death. Reduced speed limits throughout the Region's school zones help increase a motorist's ability to stop in time to avoid collisions, preventing serious injury or death to vulnerable road users. Reduced speed limits may also strengthen active school travel initiatives and promote safety of vulnerable road users in school zones throughout the Region.

A Region-wide 10 km/h speed limit reduction in school zones using the new sign promotes consistency, ease of enforcement and facilitates the use of automated speed enforcement

There are more than 550 elementary and secondary schools adjacent to Regional or local municipal roads that would benefit from reducing speed limits by 10 km/h, using the new school zone maximum speed sign from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm. This will help enhance safety, including when school is in session, the morning and evening commute periods when children are walking, cycling, being dropped off/picked up, and during after-school activities.

The new school zone maximum speed sign promotes a common understanding to motorists and York Regional Police when the lower rate of speed is in effect. The new sign also facilitates the use of automated speed enforcement through clear direction to motorists as to the day and time when reduced speed limits are in effect.

Stakeholders have indicated their support of reduced speed limits in all school zones Region-wide

Staff consulted the school boards, York Regional Police and local municipal staff about a harmonized approach in reducing speed limits in school zones on Regional and local roads. York Regional Police are very supportive.

Local municipal staff agree in principle and will consider applying a consistent approach on local roads including the use of the new sign. Recognizing the Region-wide benefit, the Region is prepared to manufacture and supply new signs at existing locations at no cost to local municipalities.

Staff propose implementing new school zone maximum speed signs prior to September 2021

Starting this spring, staff will install new school zone maximum speed signs at the 64 elementary and secondary schools on Regional roads listed Attachment 1. This includes upgrading school areas to include a new school zone maximum speed sign with a 10 km/h speed reduction and removing all existing flashing beacons. One school currently has a 20 km/h speed reduction when flashing, which will be maintained. The signs are proposed to be installed before September 2021, prior to the start of school.

5. Financial

Costs to manufacture and install new school zone maximum speed signs at all elementary and secondary schools in Attachment 1 are approximately \$60,000. The cost to remove all flashing beacons from 22 existing locations as noted in Attachment 1 are approximately \$30,000. Funding for this initiative is included in the approved 2021 Transportation Services Operating budget.

Manufacturing costs for signs at all elementary and secondary schools on local municipal roads is approximately \$100,000 and is included in the approved 2021 Transportation Services Operating budget and 2022 outlook.

6. Local Impact

Staff will continue to work with school boards, local municipalities, York Regional Police and Public Health on active school travel initiatives. Our partners are supportive of reducing speed limits in school zones on Regional and local roads.

7. Conclusion

The Province has introduced a new school zone maximum speed sign with a reduced speed limit to allow the use of automated speed enforcement in school zones. A 10 km/h reduced speed limit in school locations and use of the new school zone maximum speed sign will promote consistency, ease of enforcement and permit the use of automated speed enforcement.

Staff recommend the Establishing Speed Limits on Regional Roads policy be updated to include the new school zone maximum speed sign introduced by the Province and that existing speed limits on Regional roads in school zones identified in this report be reduced using the new sign. Staff propose installing the new signs before September 2021.

For more information on this report, please contact Joseph Petrungaro, Director, Roads and Traffic Operations, at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75220. Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.



Recommended by:

Ann-Marie Carroll

Acting Commissioner of Transportation Services



Approved for Submission:

Bruce Macgregor

Chief Administrative Officer

May 3, 2021
Attachment (1)
12414037

Table 1

Proposed Speed Limit Reductions and New School Zone Maximum Speed Signs on Regional Roads

Municipality	School Name	Regional Road	Existing Speed Limit	Proposed School Zone Speed Limit
Town of Aurora	St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School	Wellington Street	50 km/h	New 40 km/h
Town of Aurora	Aurora High School	Wellington Street	50 km/h	New 40 km/h
Town of Aurora	Wellington Public School	Wellington Street	50 km/h	New 40 km/h
Town of Aurora	Ecole Secondaire Catholique Renaissance	Bloomington Road	60 km/h	New 50 km/h
		Bathurst Street	70 km/h	New 60 km/h
Town of Aurora	St. Andrew's College	Yonge Street	60 km/h	New 50 km/h
Town of Aurora	La Maison Montessori House	Bayview Avenue	70 km/h	New 60 km/h
Town of Aurora	Cardinal Carter Catholic High School	Bloomington Road	60 km/h	New 50 km/h
Town of East Gwillimbury	Mount Albert Public School	*Mount Albert Road	50 km/h	New 40 km/h
Town of East Gwillimbury	Sharon Public School	*Leslie Street	50 km/h	New 40 km/h
Town of East Gwillimbury	Queensville Public School	*Leslie Street	50 km/h	New 40 km/h
Town of East Gwillimbury	Good Shepherd Catholic Elementary School	2 nd Concession Road	60 km/h	New 50 km/h
		*Mount Albert Road	60 km/h	New 50 km/h
Town of East Gwillimbury	Queensville Montessori Academy	Leslie Street	50 km/h	New 40 km/h
Town of East Gwillimbury	Ecole Elementaire Catholique Jean-Beliveau	2 nd Concession Road	60 km/h	New 50 km/h

Municipality	School Name	Regional Road	Existing Speed Limit	Proposed School Zone Speed Limit
Town of Georgina	Jersey Public School Prince of Peace Catholic Elementary School Our Lady of the Lake Catholic College School	*Glenwoods Avenue	40 km/h when flashing	40 km/h
Town of Georgina	Sutton District High School Sutton Public School	Baseline Road *Baseline Road	50 km/h 40 km/h when flashing	New 40 km/h 40 km/h
Town of Georgina	St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Elementary School	Old Homestead Road	50 km/h	New 40 km/h
Township of King	The Country Day School	*Dufferin Street	60 km/h	New 50 km/h
Township of King	Nobleton Public School	*Highway 27	50 km/h	New 40 km/h
Township of King	King City Secondary School	*King Road	50 km/h	New 40 km/h
Township of King	Schomberg Public School	Highway 27	60 km/h	New 50 km/h
Township of King	Kettleby Public School	Lloydtown-Aurora Road	50 km/h	New 40 km/h
Township of King	King Christian School	Bathurst Street	60 km/h	New 50 km/h
City of Markham	Father Michael McGivney Academy Catholic High School	McCowan Road *14 th Avenue	60 km/h 40 km/h when flashing	New 50 km/h 40 km/h
City of Markham	St. Brother Andre Catholic High School	*16 th Avenue	50 km/h when flashing	50 km/h

Municipality	School Name	Regional Road	Existing Speed Limit	Proposed School Zone Speed Limit
City of Markham	Thornlea Secondary School	Bayview Avenue	60 km/h	New 50 km/h
City of Markham	Unionville High School	Warden Avenue	60 km/h	New 50 km/h
City of Markham	Unionville Montessori School	Kennedy Road	60 km/h	New 50 km/h
		16 th Avenue	60 km/h	New 50 km/h
City of Markham	Milliken Mills High School	Kennedy Road	60 km/h	New 50 km/h
City of Markham	St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School	Highway 7	50 km/h	New 40 km/h
City of Markham	St. Robert Catholic High School	Leslie Street	60 km/h	New 50 km/h
City of Markham	Trillium School	14 th Avenue	60 km/h	New 50 km/h
City of Markham	Markville Secondary School	McCowan Road	60 km/h	New 50 km/h
City of Markham	Sir John A. Macdonald Public School	Woodbine Avenue	60 km/h	New 50 km/h
Town of Newmarket	Pickering College	*Prospect Street	40 km/h when flashing	40 km/h
Town of Newmarket	St. Nicholas Catholic Elementary School	Bathurst Street	60 km/h	New 50 km/h
Town of Newmarket	Newmarket High School	Mulock Drive	60 km/h	New 50 km/h
City of Richmond Hill	Walter Scott Public School	*Major Mackenzie Drive	40 km/h when flashing	40 km/h
City of Richmond Hill	Alexander Mackenzie High School	Major Mackenzie Drive	60 km/h	New 50 km/h

Municipality	School Name	Regional Road	Existing Speed Limit	Proposed School Zone Speed Limit
City of Richmond Hill	16 th Avenue Public School	*16 th Avenue	40 km/h when flashing	40 km/h
City of Richmond Hill	Roselawn Public School	*Carville Road	40 km/h when flashing	40 km/h
City of Richmond Hill	Richmond Green Secondary School	Leslie Street	60 km/h	New 50 km/h
City of Richmond Hill	Richland Academy	Yonge Street	60 km/h	New 50 km/h
City of Richmond Hill	Dr. Bette Stephenson Centre for Learning	Yonge Street	60 km/h	New 50 km/h
City of Richmond Hill	Bayview Secondary School	Bayview Avenue	60 km/h	New 50 km/h
City of Richmond Hill	Jean Vanier Catholic High School	Bayview Avenue	60 km/h	New 50 km/h
City of Richmond Hill	Richmond Hill Christian Academy	Bayview Avenue	60 km/h	New 50 km/h
City of Richmond Hill	Holy Trinity School	Bayview Avenue	60 km/h	New 50 km/h
City of Richmond Hill	Global Montessori Day Nursery and Private Elementary School	16 th Avenue	50 km/h	New 40 km/h
City of Richmond Hill	Academie de la Moraine	Yonge Street	60 km/h	New 50 km/h
City of Vaughan	Father John Kelly Catholic Elementary School	*Keele Street	40 km/h when flashing	40 km/h
City of Vaughan	Joe Dwek Ohr HaEmet Sephardic School	Bathurst Street	60 km/h	New 50 km/h
City of Vaughan	Toronto Waldorf School	Bathurst Street	60 km/h	New 50 km/h

Municipality	School Name	Regional Road	Existing Speed Limit	Proposed School Zone Speed Limit
City of Vaughan	Emily Carr Secondary School	Rutherford Road	60 km/h	New 50 km/h
City of Vaughan	Thornhill Public School	Yonge Street	50 km/h	New 40 km/h
City of Vaughan	Westmount Collegiate Institute	Bathurst Street	60 km/h	New 50 km/h
City of Vaughan	St. Jean de Brebeuf Catholic High School	Weston Road	60 km/h	New 50 km/h
City of Vaughan	Tommy Douglas Secondary School	Major Mackenzie Drive	60 km/h	New 50 km/h
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville	Whitchurch Highlands Public School	*Bloomington Road	60 km/h	New 50 km/h
		Warden Avenue	60 km/h	New 50 km/h
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville	Ballantrae Public School	*Aurora Road	50 km/h when flashing	50 km/h
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville	Glad Park Public School	*Ninth Line	40 km/h when flashing	40 km/h
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville	St. Brendan Catholic Elementary School	*Ninth Line	40 km/h when flashing	40 km/h

*Includes eight school area signs with existing flashing beacons and 14 school zone maximum speed signs with existing flashing beacons