



Report to: General Committee

Date Report Authored: May 9, 2013

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**SUBJECT:** Speed Limit Revision on 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue Within the Hamlets of  
Dickson Hill and Almira

**PREPARED BY:** Musa Deo, Traffic Operations Technologist, ext. 2736  
David Porretta, Traffic Operations Supervisor, ext. 2040

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

- 1) That the report entitled "Speed Limit Revision on 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue Within the Hamlets of Dickson Hill and Almira" be received;
- 2) And that Schedule "C" (60 km/h) of Speed By-Law 105-71 be amended by removing 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, being the road allowance between Lots 30 and 31, between the western limits of the Municipality (proposed 404) and York-Durham Line;
- 3) And that Schedule "F" (50 km/h) of Speed Limit By-law 105-71 be amended to include 19th Avenue, between Warden Avenue and Kennedy Road;
- 4) And that Schedule "F" (50 km/h) of Speed Limit By-law 105-71 be amended to include 19th Avenue, between Highway 48 and a point 300 east of Mill Race Court;
- 5) And that Schedule "C" (60 km/h) of Speed By-Law 105-71 be amended by adding 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, between Highway 404 and Warden Avenue;
- 6) And that Schedule "C" (60 km/h) of Speed By-Law 105-71 be amended by adding 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, between Kennedy Road and Highway 48;
- 7) And that Schedule "C" (60 km/h) of Speed By-Law 105-71 be amended by adding 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue between a point 300 meters east of Mill Race Court and York-Durham Line;
- 8) And that the Operations Department be directed to remove and install the appropriate regulatory signs upon approval of the attached by-law;
- 9) And that the cost of materials and installation for the traffic signs be funded from capital project # 11305 (Traffic Operational Improvements) in the amount of \$1,000;
- 10) And that York Region Police be requested to enforce the revised 50 km/h speed limit upon passing of the By-law and installation of the regulatory signs;
- 11) And that staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

**PURPOSE:**

This report recommends a reduction in the maximum posted speed limit from 60 km/h to 50 km/h, on 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue through the hamlets of Dickson Hill and Almira.

**BACKGROUND:**

Individual residents of the hamlets of Dickson Hill and Almira have contacted Operations staff about excessive speeding on 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue through their hamlets and requested a reduction in speed limit to reflect the roadside environment. Further, on behalf of the Dickson Hill Hamlet & Neighbourhood Community Association, Ward 5 Councillor Colin Campbell requested that Operations staff evaluate the possibility of a speed limit reduction through Dickson Hill also.

19<sup>th</sup> Avenue is a two-lane rural arterial road, with an east-west orientation along the northern municipal boundary of Markham. The road has a rural profile, with narrow shoulders and open ditches on either side. The current posted speed limit along 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue in its entirety is 60 km/h.

**DISCUSSION:**

Operations Department undertook a review of the existing posted speed limit through the hamlets of Dickson Hill and Almira. When reviewing the appropriate speed limit, various determining factors must be considered, including:

- Frequency of properties/driveways;
- Roadside Hazards;
- Visibility;
- Pedestrian & cyclist exposure.

**The characteristics of 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue within Dickson Hill support a lower speed limit of 50 km/h.**

Generally defined as Highway 48 to just east of Mill Race Court, the section of 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue through Dickson Hill is approximately 0.6 kilometres in length and has an average daily traffic (ADT) volume of 1,750 vehicles (see Attachment 'A'). There are approximately 18 residential properties & driveways on this section (including those on Mill Race Court). While there are no sidewalks on either side of the street, there is occasional pedestrian activity occurring on the street. There is also a school bus stop located at the intersection of 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Mill Race Court. The relatively steep grade east of Dickson Hill Road does create sightline visibility issues for turning vehicles and pedestrians. Previous efforts to address these concerns (advisory signs, painted edge lines) have not provided satisfactory results. Based on the review, a speed limit reduction to 50 km/h will contribute to lower operating speeds and improve safety, if police enforcement is provided.

**The characteristics of 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue within Almira support a lower speed limit of 50 km/h.**

From Warden Avenue to Kennedy Road, the section of 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue through Almira is approximately 2.1 kilometres in length and has an ADT volume of 2,150 vehicles (see Attachment 'B'). There are approximately 50 residential properties along this section, with a relatively high concentration of driveways near the historical centre of the hamlet.

Despite the lack of sidewalks on either side of the street, there is occasional pedestrian and cyclist activity occurring on the roadway. Horseback riding is also common. Previous efforts to address safety concerns associated with these activities (advisory signs, painted edge lines) have not provided satisfactory results. Based on the review, a speed limit reduction to 50 km/h will contribute to lower operating speeds and improve safety, if police enforcement is provided.

**Ongoing police enforcement is required to ensure compliance of 50 km/h.**

The current operating speeds through the hamlets of Dickson Hill and Almira average 66 km/h and 78 km/h, respectively. For a reduced posted speed limit of 50 km/h to be effective, speed enforcement is essential. Through discussions with 5 District York Region Police Traffic Bureau, they are supportive of the reduced speed limit through the subject locations and have advised that they would be able to provide increased enforcement in an effort to reduce speeding through the hamlets.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

The cost of materials and installation for the traffic signs and pavement markings in the amount of \$1,000 has been included in the capital project # 11305 (Traffic Operational Improvements). On-going maintenance costs for this installation will be considered in the 2014 Operations Department operating budgets.

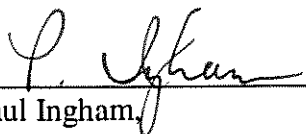
**ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

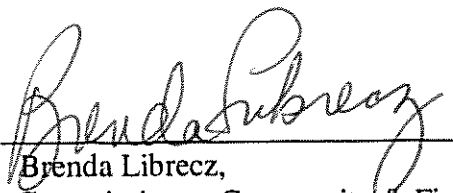
This report aligns with the community safety component of Markham's transportation strategic priority.

**DEPARTMENTS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:**

Not applicable.

**RECOMMENDED BY:**

  
Paul Ingham,  
Director, Operations  
Services

  
Brenda Librecz,  
Commissioner, Community & Fire

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Attachment 'A' – Location Map – Dickson Hill Speed Limit Reduction
- Attachment 'B' – Location Map – Almira Speed Limit Reduction
- Attachment 'C' – Proposed By-law Amendment