

The Regional Municipality of York

Committee of the Whole
Transportation Services
March 3, 2022

Report of the Commissioner of Transportation Services

Community Safety Zone Bylaw Amendments

1. Recommendations

1. The Region's Community Safety Zone bylaw be amended as detailed in Attachment 1 of this report.
2. The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary bylaw.
3. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to the Clerks of the local municipalities, York Regional Police and York Region school boards.

2. Summary

This report seeks Council approval to amend the Region's Community Safety Zone bylaw to reflect the limits of the new school zone speed limit reductions implemented in September 2021.

Key Points:

- Community Safety Zone is a designation under the Ontario *Highway Traffic Act* intended to help change driver behaviour and increase safety for all road users in areas of special consideration, such as near schools, daycare centres, retirement residences or high-collision locations
- Council previously approved designation of Community Safety Zones in all School Zones on the Regional road network, subject to authorized exceptions
- Community Safety Zone bylaw amendments are required to reflect the limits of the new school zone speed limit reductions that were implemented in September 2021

3. Background

Community Safety Zones are enacted through municipal bylaw and intended to help increase safety for all road users

A Community Safety Zone is a designation under the Ontario *Highway Traffic Act* and is intended to help change driver behaviour, including reducing speed and distracted driving and improving safety on roads. Fines are increased for traffic offences within a designated Community Safety Zone. A municipal bylaw must be enacted to designate a Community Safety Zone.

Community Safety Zones are typically designated on roadways near schools, daycare centres, retirement residences or high-collision locations, to advise motorists they are within a zone where public safety is of special concern.

May 2012, Council approved designation of Community Safety Zones in all school zones on the Regional road network, subject to authorized exceptions

In May 2012, Council approved revisions to the Community Safety Zone Warrant Criteria Policy to designate all school zones as Community Safety Zones. Council further directed staff to request York Regional Police and each local municipality to identify any exceptions or deletions of specific Community Safety Zones.

May 2021, Council approved a Region-wide speed limit reduction in all school zones

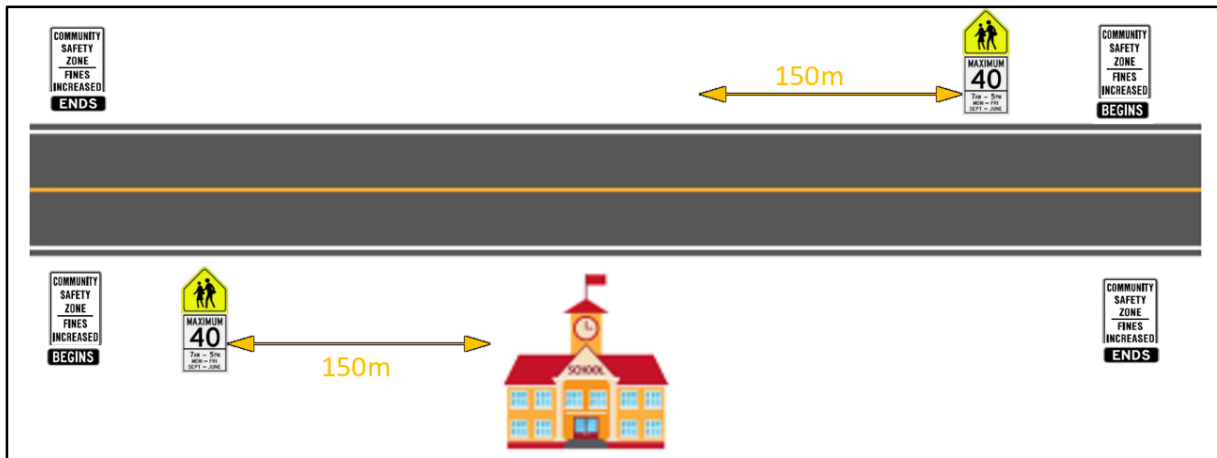
In August 2020, the Province introduced a new school zone maximum speed sign with a reduced speed limit. In [May 2021](#), Council approved implementation of school zone speed limit reductions for more than 60 school zones located on Regional roads. The new school zone speed limits were implemented in September 2021. As per the Ontario *Highway Traffic Act*, school zone speed limit reductions are limited to 150 metres on either side of the school property. This requires Community Safety Zones to be placed beyond 150 metres to fully include the school zone.

4. Analysis

Community Safety Zone bylaw amendments are required to reflect the limits of the new school zone speed limit reductions implemented in September 2021

Revisions to the bylaw are primarily focused on extending the Community Safety Zone limits to include the entire school zone speed limit reduction, as illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 1
Community Safety Zone Revision



It is important school zones are contained completely within the limits of a designated Community Safety Zone. This provides consistency for on-street signs and travel through the Region and can mean improved compliance by motorists. This also helps with enforcement and minimizes the potential for legal challenges based on discrepancies.

The Community Safety Zone bylaw requires amendment to reflect on-street changes, as detailed in Attachment 1.

Through consultation with the school boards operating in York Region, staff have confirmed no new schools will be opening and no existing schools will be permanently closing in 2022/2023.

5. Financial

There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

6. Local Impact

Community Safety Zones are intended to help change driver behaviour, including reducing speed and distracted driving and improving safety on roads where public safety is of special concern.

York Regional Police, School Boards and local municipalities have been advised of the changes and no objections were raised.

7. Conclusion

Since 2012, Community Safety Zones have been implemented in many school zones across the Region to help improve safety for all road users.

Community Safety Zone bylaw amendments are required to reflect the limits of the new school zone speed limit reductions that were implemented in September 2021. Staff recommend the bylaw be amended as detailed in Attachment 1 of this report. Subject to Council approval, the Regional Solicitor will amend the bylaw to include these revisions.

For more information on this report, please contact Joseph Petrunaro, 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

February 9, 2022

Attachment (1)

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