

To: Warden and Members of County Council

From: Director of Public Works

Speed Management and Road Safety Reviews – Kintore, Norwich, Otterville, and Woodstock/East Zorra-Tavistock

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That County Council endorse the implementation of speed management and road safety measures in Kintore (Oxford Road 119, Oxford Road 16), Norwich (Oxford Road 59, Oxford Road 18), Otterville (Oxford Road 19) and Woodstock/East Zorra-Tavistock (Oxford Road 17, Oxford Road 30) as per Report No. PW 2021-10;
2. And further, that a by-law be presented to County Council at the April 14, 2021 Council meeting to amend By-law No. 5725-2015 to designate and modify speed zone limits as outlined in Report No. PW 2021-10.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The purpose of this report is to seek County Council endorsement to implement recommended speed management and road safety measures in Kintore, Norwich, Otterville, and Woodstock/East Zorra-Tavistock.
- Adjustments to speed zone limits and posted speeds in the subject areas are recommended to align with limits of built up areas and Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) guideline criteria to promote uniform traffic flow and reduce the risk of collisions.
- Implementation measures include the installation of electronic speed feedback signs (Kintore, Otterville, Oxford Road 17, Oxford Road 30), a controlled pedestrian crossing (Oxford Road 19, Otterville) and a 40km/hr school zone (A.J. Baker Public School, Oxford Road 119, Kintore). Further traffic/pedestrian analyses (Norwich) are recommended.

Implementation Points

Road safety measures identified for immediate implementation will proceed following Council authorization and enactment of by-law amendments. A number of additional measures will be considered for future implementation pending the findings of ongoing monitoring and overall effectiveness of the immediate measures.

Financial Impact

Traffic calming and road safety measures recommended for immediate implementation will be funded from the 2021 Business Plan and Budget.

Communications







Staff liaised with respective Area Municipality staff representatives, Woodstock Police, OPP and residents to detail the work plans and outcomes (findings and recommendations) of the speed management and road safety reviews. As well, staff presented the review findings and recommendations to the respective Area Municipality Councils as follows:

- Oxford Road 16 and Oxford Road 119, Kintore, was presented to Township of Zorra on January 14, 2021;
- Oxford Road 18 and Oxford Road 59, Norwich, along with Oxford Road 19, Otterville were presented to Township of Norwich on February 23, 2021; and
- Oxford Road 17 and Oxford Road 30, Woodstock, was presented to the Township of East-Zorra Tavistock on February 17, 2021 and the City of Woodstock on February 18, 2021.

Report No. PW 2021-10, along with any potential amendments, will be circulated to the Township of Zorra, Township of East Zorra-Tavistock, City of Woodstock, Township of Norwich, Ontario Provincial Police and Woodstock Police Services for information.

With Council's adoption of By-law No. 5725-2015 amendments, Public Works will work with the communications team to develop proactive communication that clarifies these speed management changes. This may include social media, media outreach, advertising and/or other approaches.

Strategic Plan (2020-2022)

					
WORKS WELL TOGETHER	WELL CONNECTED	SHAPES THE FUTURE	INFORMS & ENGAGES	PERFORMS & DELIVERS	POSITIVE IMPACT
1.ii.	2.i.		4.ii.	5.ii.	

DISCUSSION

Background

In response to requests from Area Municipality representatives and residents, traffic speed and road safety reviews were recently completed at the following locations throughout the County:

- Oxford Road 119 and Oxford Road 16, **(Kintore)**;
- Oxford Road 17 and Oxford Road 30 **(Woodstock/Township of East Zorra-Tavistock)**;
- Oxford Road 59 and Oxford Road 18 **(Norwich)**; and
- Oxford Road 19 **(Otterville)**.

Staff retained a third party Consultant (Dillon Consulting) to undertake the speed and road safety reviews in Kintore, Woodstock/East Zorra-Tavistock, Norwich, and Otterville using traffic data provided by the County.

County-wide Approach to Speed Management and Traffic Calming

The 2020 speed and road safety reviews undertaken in Kintore, Woodstock/East Zorra-Tavistock, Norwich, and Otterville were completed in accordance with the County-wide approach that was adopted by County Council through Report No. **PW 2019-14**. This approach identifies the following key principles that can be applied consistently across the County-wide road network for the development of recommended speed management and traffic calming implementation measures.

- Adoption of posted speeds and limits of speed zone which are consistent with the driving environment in accordance with *Canadian Guidelines for Establishing Posted Speed Limits - Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) – 2009*;
- Regular/ongoing speed monitoring in communities and settlement areas;
- Information sharing and collaboration with Police, municipal partners and community members;
- Identifying and prioritizing implementation of traffic calming measures;
- Consideration of speed management, traffic calming and road safety measures as part of road design/geometry for planned future road rehabilitation and land development; and
- Ongoing monitoring to evaluate effectiveness of speed reduction, traffic calming and road safety measures following implementation.

Traffic Data Benchmarking

In November 2019, 24 hour speed data was collected at over 80 County road locations, primarily in areas where speed limits are reduced from 80km/hr through rural communities and built-up areas. County-wide speed counts were undertaken to provide benchmark traffic data and to inform County-wide speed management, traffic calming and road safety reviews.

Additional speed data was also collected and/or provided by respective Area Municipality staff where necessary to fully inform the findings and recommendations of the speed and road safety reviews undertaken in Kintore, Woodstock/East Zorra-Tavistock, Norwich, and Otterville.

Vehicle Operating Speeds and Posted Speeds, Speed Zone Limits

Within the study areas, vehicle operating speeds (85th Percentile) exceeded posted speeds in varying degrees ranging from not excessive to very excessive and the reduced speed zone limits extend beyond the limits of built up areas.

Current posted speeds in Kintore (Oxford Road 19), Woodstock/East Zorra-Tavistock (Oxford Road 17, Oxford Road 30), Norwich (Oxford Road 59, Oxford Road 18) and Otterville (Oxford Road 19) were found to be below recommended posted speeds in accordance with TAC guideline criteria. Further, limits of speed zones did not substantively align with limits of built-up areas/urban road cross section and TAC guideline criteria in many cases.

Audible Traffic Signals – Norwich

Further to the review completed in Norwich (Oxford Road 59, Oxford Road 18), County Council received correspondence from the Township of Norwich (Attachment 1) at the March 10, 2021 County Council meeting, in which the Council of the Township of Norwich is requesting consideration of the installation of audible traffic signals at the intersection of Stover Street (Oxford Road 59) and Main Street (Oxford Road 18).

The request for audible traffic signals was received by Township of Norwich Council from their local Accessibility Advisory Committee to improve intersection pedestrian crossings for those with accessibility challenges.

The intersection of Stover Street (Oxford Road 59) and Main Street (Oxford Road 18) is currently controlled with traffic/pedestrian signals and is within the study area of the speed and road safety review undertaken in Norwich.

Comments

The work plan, findings and proposed recommendations for safety reviews completed in Kintore, Woodstock/East Zorra-Tavistock and Norwich/Otterville are detailed in Attachments 2, 3, and 4 respectively. Following deliberations with Area Municipality Councils, staff received general support for the proposed immediate and future speed management and traffic calming recommendations (refer to Attachment 5), with some exceptions as noted below.

Additional review was undertaken by staff in response to Township of Norwich Council concerns with intersection safety at Oxford Road 59 and Quaker Street (north of the built up area). Staff reviewed intersection operation conditions including sightlines, surrounding land use and intersection related collisions. The findings did not identify any apparent intersection safety deficiencies and were consistent with a previous safety assessment undertaken by staff in August 2019. Follow up correspondence summarizing the assessment (Attachment 6) was sent to Norwich Township on March 3, 2021.

As well, the Township of Norwich Council did not fully support proposed changes to posted speeds on Oxford Road 19 within Otterville. Staff reassessed posted speeds/speed zones and, as an interim measure, are recommending to leave the posted speed at 50km/hr at this time and adjust the limits of the speed zones to align with the built environment/village limits. Revised immediate traffic calming measures in Otterville are shown on Attachment 7.

Recommended speed zone adjustments in Kintore were intended to align with the limit of urban road cross section and TAC guideline criteria; however, did not necessarily align with the limits of the village/built up area. Staff and Township of Zorra representatives agreed to not adjust the limits of the speed zone at the north end on Oxford Road 119 at this time, but rather, implement physical roadside features (Community sign, landscaping, street lighting) at the north end gateways over a trial period. These built features are intended to further delineate the village limit and create a visual cue for motorists to reduce their speed.

Recommendations for Immediate Implementation

The main recommendations for immediate implementation in 2021 are as follows:

Kintore:

1. Implementation of a 40km/hr school zone at A.J. Baker Public School on Oxford Road 119 during times when school is normally in session;
2. Sidewalk accessibility modifications (ramps, tactile plates) and crosswalk ladder-style pavement markings at the intersection of Oxford Road 119 and Oxford Road 16;
3. Installation of an electronic speed feedback sign at the west limit of the 60km/hr zone on Oxford Road 16 for incoming (eastbound) traffic for a trial period; and
4. Installation of physical features (community sign, landscaping, street lighting) at the north limits of the village/built-up area.

Woodstock / East Zorra-Tavistock:

1. Adjustment of the west limit of the 60km/hr speed zone on Oxford Road 17 to align with the limit of the settlement cluster;
2. Installation of electronic speed feedback signs on Oxford Road 17 at the east and west limits of the 60km/hr zone and east and west of Oxford Road 59; and
3. Installation of electronic speed feedback signs on Oxford Road 30 at the north and south limits of the 60km/hr zone.

Norwich:

1. Elimination of the 60km/hr speed transition zones at the east and west approaches on Oxford Road 18 and at the north approach on Oxford Road 59;
2. Adjustment of the 50km/hr speed zone limits at the east and west approaches on Oxford Road 18 and at the north end of Oxford Road 59 to align with the limit of the village/built up area;
3. Pedestrian studies on Oxford Road 59 at South Court and South Street; and
4. Sidewalk modifications (ramps, tactile plates) and preliminary design for audible pedestrian signals at the existing signalized intersection of Oxford Road 18 and Oxford Road 59.

Otterville:

1. Adjustment to the 50km/hr speed zone limits at the east and west approaches on Oxford Road 19 to align with the limits of the village/built-up area;
2. Installation of electronic speed feedback signs at the east and west approaches on Oxford Road 19 at the adjusted limits of the 50km/hr zone; and
3. Pedestrian crossing (PXO) with pedestrian activated flashing lights on Oxford Road 19 at Dover Street.

Recommendations for Future Consideration

Recommendations for future consideration include the following:

- Extension of urban road cross section (Kintore, Norwich);
- Road urbanization, Oxford Road 17 (Woodstock);
- Re-evaluation of operating speeds at the east end of Oxford Road 16 in Kintore after Phase 2 of road reconstruction is completed (2022);
- Controlled pedestrian crossing (Crossing Guard, PXO) at A.J. Baker Public School – Kintore;
- Re-evaluation of operating speeds on Oxford Road 119 to determine effectiveness of the installation of built features at the north end of the village;
- Signalization/roundabout at intersection of Oxford Road 59 and Airport Road in Norwich;
- Curb extension, bump outs, separated bike lanes; and
- Built features at Community limits (gateways, entrance signage, landscaping, flexible delineators, street lighting);
- Consideration of Automated Speed Enforcement (photo radar) in School Zones; ongoing monitoring and data sharing with Police; and Townships to consider development of Local Community Watch programs.

In complement to the above noted immediate and future measures, Area Municipality representatives and residents also feel that increased enforcement is the solution to speeding concerns in their communities. Police have been fully engaged in collaborative discussions with County and Area Municipality representatives throughout the various safety reviews and agree to support recommended speed management implementation measures through initial and ongoing enforcement and speed data analysis.

Conclusions

Speeding concerns identified by Area Municipality representatives and community members in the subject areas has been validated by traffic data. Staff has utilized traffic management principles and engineering best practice methodologies to develop evidence based recommendations intended to improve safety from its current state at these locations.

The recommendations are believed to appropriately balance traffic engineering science with local community perceptions of safety within the respective County Road networks which pass through these village clusters.

Staff will continue to collaborate with Area Municipalities, Police and Community members to improve road safety for all road users.

SIGNATURES

Report Author:

Original signed by:

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Approved for submission:

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ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1: Correspondence from Township of Norwich Council – Oxford Road 59 and Oxford Road 18
- Attachment 2: Workplan, Findings and Recommendations for Kintore – Oxford Road 119 and Oxford Road 16
- Attachment 3: Workplan, Findings and Recommendations for Woodstock/EZT – Oxford Road 17 and Oxford Road 30
- Attachment 4: Workplan, Findings and Recommendations for Norwich and Otterville – Oxford Roads 18/59 and Oxford Road 19
- Attachment 5: Correspondence from City of Woodstock – Oxford Road 17 and Oxford Road 30
- Attachment 6: Follow up Correspondence to Township of Norwich – Oxford Road 59 and Quaker Street
- Attachment 7: Revised Traffic Calming Measures in Otterville – Oxford Road 19