



Working together with our community

Council-In-Committee Meeting – June 11, 2024

Subject: Community Safety Zone Policy Update
Report Number: EIS-24-045
Division: Environmental and Infrastructure Services
Department: Engineering
Ward: All Wards
Purpose: For Decision

Recommendation(s):

That Report EIS-24-045 Community Safety Zone Policy Update be received as information;

And That Council approve Policy 15 Community Safety Zones as revised;

Executive Summary:

Through staff report EIS-22-071 Norfolk Street North Safety Review, Council approved a policy when to enact Community Safety Zones. The policy provided guidelines and warrants that staff use to evaluate requests for new Community Safety Zones within Norfolk County.

The policy has been utilized twice to review and recommend new Community Safety Zones in Simcoe and Delhi. Norfolk County currently has six (6) approved Community Safety Zones.

It is good practice to review and revise policies from time to time to ensure that they are current. Engineering staff have reviewed the current Community Safety Zone Policy and are recommending minor changes to the evaluation criteria to ensure it meets the needs of Norfolk County.

Discussion:

Community Safety Zones

Community Safety Zone (CSZ) designations are intended to be enacted for portions of roadways where public safety is of a special concern. Examples of these areas are school zones, playgrounds, community centers, recreation areas and hospitals.

The Ontario Highway Traffic Act (HTA) permits the use of CSZ and gives authority to

municipal Councils to designate a part of a highway as a CSZ. The HTA also allows for increased monetary penalties for speeding infractions within CSZ to promote deterrence of speeding behaviour.

CSZ must be designated by a municipal by-law to be enforceable and must identify the specific zone limits and time periods (times/days/months) when increased penalties are in effect. The designation of the entire length of a particular roadway (versus shorter defined road segments) is generally not an intended application of the CSZ concept. Furthermore, public safety risks must be evident for the part of the roadway segment selected as a CSZ.

To support the designation of any future CSZ, Council enacted Policy 15 Community Safety Zones in September of 2022.

Since the policy was approved by Council staff have completed two evaluations for CSZ's. One in Delhi (James Street) and one in Simcoe (Norfolk Street South), both of which met the minimum score and were enacted by Council. In keeping with the current data sets for Norfolk County Roads and to provide consistency with other approved policies, staff are recommending the minor changes below.

Current Scoring

Risk Factor	High (Score 3)	Moderate (Score 2)	Low (Score 1)	Score
Operating speed (km/h) (85 th percentile)	70 or >	60	50 or <	
Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT)	Over 20,000	10,000 to 20,000	Under 10,000	

Revise to

Risk Factor	High (Score 3)	Moderate (Score 2)	Low (Score 1)	Score
85 th percentile speeds (km/hr.) above the posted Speed Limit	>15	5 to 15	Less than 5	
Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT)	Over 7,000	3,000 to 7,000	Under 3,000	

Staff are also recommending that the minimum score for the road safety component review be revised from 15 to 14 to recommend a CSZ be created.

Financial Services Comments:

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

Interdepartmental Implications:

NA

Consultation(s):

NA

Strategic Plan Linkage:

This report aligns with the 2022-2026 Council Strategic Priority Serving Norfolk - Ensuring a fiscally responsible organization with engaged employees who value excellent service.

Explanation: The minor revisions in the Community Safety Zone policy align with Norfolk County Data sets which clearly define parameters for evaluation

Conclusion:

Staff recommend that Council approve the revisions to Policy 15 Community Safety Zones.

The policy revisions are minor and of a technical nature and align to the existing traffic data sets observed in Norfolk County over the past few years.

Attachment(s):

- Revised Policy 15 Community Safety Zones
- Existing Community Safety Zones in Norfolk County

Approval:

Approved By:
Andrew Grice,
General Manager Environmental and Infrastructure Services

Reviewed By:
Darnell Lambert,
Director Engineering.

Prepared By:
Mike King, Engineering