



The Corporation of the Township of Huron-Kinloss

Staff Report

Report Title: Traffic Review Update Nov. 2024

Date: Nov. 4, 2024

Report Number: PW-2024-11-45

Department: Public Works

File Number: C11 PW 24

Prepared By: John Yungblut, Director of Public Works

Attachments:

Recommendation:

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report PW-2024-11-45 prepared by John Yungblut, Director of Public Works.

Background:

In the past few years, Township staff have received various requests for changes to several Township roads. The requests can be categorized under three main areas:

1. Traffic calming measures, such as additional speed limit signs
2. Speed limit reductions
3. Intersection alterations, including adding or removing stop signs

The roads that are most often referenced in these requests are as follows:

- Lake Range Dr. (1, 2 and 3)
- Boiler Beach Rd. (1 and 2)
- Huron Rd. (1 and 2)
- Wolfe St. (3)

Traffic Calming Measures/Additional Speed Limit Signs

In response to speeding complaints, the Police Services Board purchase a BlackCat speed radar sign to measure the level of speeding on Township roads in 2019. Since then, Township staff have completed 23 speed radar studies and have found one location that showed evidence of elevated speeding levels, which was Lake Range Dr. between Con. 2 and Con. 4.

Despite the lack of evidence of speeding issues on Township roads, the perception that speeding is an issue continues to persist.

In 2023, Township staff made the decision to end the practice of installing speed limit signs as they are requested and warranted and instead examine our existing speed sign locations and determine how many new speed limit signs would be required for compliance with the Ontario Traffic Manual (OTM).

It should be noted that the Township is not required to comply with the OTM. It is a guideline that includes best practices.

The main issue with not being in full compliance with the OTM in this case, is it may be possible for someone charged with speeding to avoid a conviction if a lack of speed limit signs is cited in their defence. Therefore, it would be important to follow the OTM in areas that may have speeding infractions.

The information collected along with the new signs required to comply with the OTM are listed below:

Street	From	To	Existing Signs	New Signs Required
Lake Range Dr.	Ashfield-Huron Townline	Saratoga Rd	28	6
Boiler Beach Rd	Con. 10	Kincardine Boundary	6	5
Bruce Beach Rd	Con. 8	Con. 10	1	4
Huron Road	Lake Range Dr.	Con. 2	1	5
Victoria Rd.	Lighthouse Rd.	St. Arnaud St.	0	4
Con. 2	Huron Rd.	Lake Range Dr.	2	0
Total New Signs				24

In addition to additional speed limit signs, Township staff are also planning to create speed limit transition zones where speed limits change from 80 km/hr to 40 km/hr with no stop sign. This will include:

- Ashfield-Huron Townline at Lake Range Dr.
- Con. 2 at Lake Range Dr.
- Con. 4 at Lake Range Dr.
- Con. 10 at Lake Range Dr.
- Con. 12 at Lake Range Dr.

Speed Limit Reductions

Township staff receive regular requests for speed reductions on Lake Range Dr. as a result of the development and increased traffic volume over the past several years.

We have looked at reviewing speed limits in house and determined that we don't have the internal expertise required to properly assess speed limits because so many factors need to be measured and evaluated such as:

- Road geometry
- Lane width
- Roadside hazards
- Pedestrian exposure
- Cycling exposure
- Pavement surface
- Number of intersections with public roads
- Number of intersections with private access driveways
- On street parking

Intersection Alternations

Township staff have received requests to remove or add new stop signs on Lake Range Dr. and Wolfe St. among a few others in recent years. This is another situation where many factors need to be considered before changing stop sign configurations, otherwise we may see more collisions at these intersections.

Township staff recommend hiring a third party that specializes in traffic engineering to review these intersections.

Discussion/Analysis/Overview:

Traffic Calming Measures/Additional Speed Limit Signs

Township staff recommend installing additional speed limit signs on Lake Range Dr., Huron Rd and Boiler Beach Rd, but not Victoria Rd or Bruce Beach Rd. These reason for this is Victora Rd and Bruce Beach Rd are narrow enough the signs may interfere with large vehicles, and we haven't received any complaints about speeding on those roads.

The new signs are proposed to be installed in 2025.

Signs for the speed limit transition zones can be installed once they are approved by Council. This recommendation could be included in a future report regarding the traffic review.

Speed Limit Reductions

In the opinion of Township staff, hiring a third party to evaluate the existing speed limits on Lake Range Dr. and recommend changes would be valuable information that could be used to support Council's decision.

Intersection Alternations

A review of intersection control on Lake Range Dr. and Wolfe St. could be included in a speed limit evaluation study since both these tasks would be best suited for a traffic engineering firm.

Financial Impacts:

Township staff are planning to include additional speed limit signs and a review of speed limits and intersection control in 2025 budget deliberations. At this time, we anticipate that the traffic review will cost approximately \$30,000.

Performance Measurement:

The only Key Performance Measurement (KPI) that could be used to measure the success of this project is the rate of collisions in the areas of focus. Unfortunately, we are unable to collect this information from the Ministry of Transportation at this time due to privacy concerns.

Strategic Area:

- Embrace a thriving rural lifestyle
- Enhance Municipal Service Delivery
- Prepare for Inclusive Growth
- Ensure Financial Stability

Strategic Goal: Ensure municipal systems support future growth

Respectfully Submitted By:

John Yungblut, Director of Public Works

Report Approved By:

Jodi MacArthur, Chief Administrative Officer