



A Natural Attraction

The Corporation of the City of Quinte West
Public Works & Environmental Services
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PROCEDURE TO REVIEW SPEED LIMITS

The intent of this procedure is to maintain speed limits on City streets that promote public safety and have a reasonable expectation of driver adherence. The purpose of this Policy is to establish a framework when requests to reduce or increase the speed limit on a particular street are made.

The speed of vehicles is an emotive issue for communities that often generate intense local concern and debate, partly because the perception of what is an appropriate safe speed often differs greatly between, for example; drivers, pedestrians and pedal cyclists, many of whom live and work in the community. It is important, therefore, that Quinte West City Council clearly sets out its own policy on how it will determine 'appropriate' speed limits and ensure consistency of application.

Speed limits must be evidence-led and self-explaining, and should reinforce road users' assessments of the appropriate speed for a given environment. Speed limits should be established in a consistent manner that reflects the expectation of all road users.

Where a speed limit is set inappropriately, for example substantially lower than the speed that the majority of drivers would otherwise choose, evidence shows it often will not be obeyed and can result in an over-reliance on Police enforcement and can create safety issues.

The objectives of the new Procedure are;

- the setting of appropriate local speed limits, including lowering or raising limits where conditions dictate;
- establishing local speed limits that reflect the needs of all road users, not just drivers etc.;
- establish a framework to govern when requests are made to lower or raise a speed limit;
- improved quality of life for residents in urban and rural areas and a good balance between road safety, accessibility, and environmental objectives;
- improved recognition and understanding by road users of the risks involved on different types of road, the different speed limits that apply and the reasons why;
- improved respect for speed limits and in turn improved self-compliance;
- continued reductions in the number of road traffic accidents, injuries and deaths in which excessive or inappropriate speed is a contributory factor.

Speed limits are only one element of speed management and local speed limits should not be set in isolation, but as part of a package of measures to manage speeds. This includes engineering measures such as traffic calming and landscaping features to raise drivers' awareness of the environment, as well as enforcement, education, driver information, training and publicity.

The objectives of this policy are to

- provide a framework for speed limit requests for reductions or increases
- ensure consultation with affected stakeholders
- openness and transparency
- enhance safety and convenience for all users
- improve the neighborhood environment
- minimize conflicts between street users
- reduce the number and or severity of collisions
- increase safety

Step 1 Citizen(s) requesting a speed limit reduction or increase must send in a written request with justification for the request by April 01. At least 85% of the residents residing on that section of street where the request is applicable must sign the requesting petition. If there is not 85% support for the request, the Director of Public Works and Environmental Services shall send a written reply back to the petitioner advising that the request will not be considered.

Request for speed limit reductions or increases shall only be received once a year by April 01 in order for City Staff and OPP to complete a detailed and comprehensive analysis and review and provide their input on or before October 30 of each year.

Step 2 The Request for the speed limit review will be sent to the Director of Public Works and Environmental Services who will place the request on the next Public Works Committees' agenda for information.

Step 3 After the Public Works Committee approval of the minutes, the request will be sent to the City's Engineering Division and the OPP for review and comment.

Engineering and Public Works Staff will review and analyze the request taking into consideration road geometry (horizontal and vertical alignment, curves alignments etc), accident history, TAC Guidelines, school zones, sidewalks present or not, road characteristics, etc. and will provide a written report to the Director of Public Works and Environmental Services before the end of September.

OPP will review the request, and monitor the speed during the spring, summer and early fall season and provide a report with the data to the Director of Public Works and Environmental Services before the end of September.

Step 4 To increase awareness of the petitioners request for a speed limit reduction or increase, City Staff will erect on opposite ends of the street or area in question, a sign stating that this street is under consideration by City Council for a speed limit reduction or increase. Comments must be received by September 01 in writing to the City. This sign shall be displayed for an appropriate amount of time.

In addition City Staff will provide a notice of the request on the City's website for residents to provide comment before September 01.

Step 5 In October, the Director of Public Works and Environmental Services shall provide a written report to the City's Public Works and Environmental Services Committee with all of the information, data, and reports and will provide a recommendation for Committee's consideration of the speed limit reduction or increase.

Procedure for Setting Speed Limits – Flow Chart

