

Staff Report to Council

Title: The Use and Installation of Community Safety Zones and Traffic Calming Implementation Policy

Report Number: Operations-2023-25

Director: Infrastructure & Development

Manager: Operations

Meeting Date:
Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Date to be considered by Council:
Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Recommendation:

That Council approve The Use and Installation of Community Safety Zones Policy as presented; and further

That Council approve the Traffic Calming Implementation Policy as presented.

Executive Summary:

The Municipality of Kincardine receives several requests each year to install Community Safety Zones and Traffic Calming measures in neighbourhoods. Unfortunately, the Municipality is unable to accommodate all the requests within current resources, nor are all locations suitable for community safety zones and/or traffic calming. Staff are proposing that Council support a standardized approach to addressing community safety zones and traffic calming requests submitted for review. The Use and Installation of Community Safety Zones outlines how they are selected for review and outlines the implementation process and characteristics of selected segments of roadway where they are designated. The proposed Traffic Calming Implementation Policy details the Municipality's:- Process for receiving, evaluating, and responding to traffic calming requests;- Evaluation methodology for determining if traffic calming is appropriate for a given street;- List of applicable traffic calming measures

Strategic Priorities:

C.12-Support community wellness in the Municipality of Kincardine

Financial Considerations:

Operating budget requirements to install and maintain assets.

Policy:

Traffic and Parking By-Law No 2019-165

Highway Traffic Act

Context and Background Information:

Traffic calming is the broad term used to describe the process and measures applied by road authorities to address concerns about the behaviour of motor vehicle drivers travelling on streets within their jurisdiction. Typically, the concerns relate to speeding and/or shortcutting traffic in residential neighbourhoods.

A Community Safety Zone (CSZ) is a section of roadway where public safety is of special concern designated through a by-law passed by a municipal council to identify it as a road segment of higher risk or concern. These include roadways near schools, day care centers, retirement facilities and those with high collision rates. While traffic laws remain the same, the *Highway Traffic Act* provides for fines for moving violations which are increased or doubled within these designated zones. CSZs are used as a tool that can be applied as a traffic calming measure in areas of concern. The proposed policy outlines how potential CSZs are selected for review on the Municipality of Kincardine roadways and outlines the characteristics of selected segments of roadways where CSZs may be designated.

Municipalities apply traffic calming measures to help reduce vehicle operating speeds, decrease traffic volumes, and alleviate conflicts between road users, with the goal of restoring streets to their desired function. Use of these measures promotes appropriate driver behaviour and ultimately improvements in both real and perceived road safety. But even when applied properly, traffic calming can pose negative consequences on emergency response and maintenance vehicles in some settings. Its presence can also cause traffic to divert to other streets, sometimes to the detriment of residents on those alternate routes. Implementation costs, visual appearance, and compatibility with adjacent development can deter use as well.

The draft Traffic Calming Implementation Policy provides guidance on the different measures and sets out defined criteria, consistent guidelines and a typical process for considering prospective locations for traffic calming in both existing neighbourhoods and new development areas.

The Traffic Calming Implementation Policy will help Municipal staff identify situations where traffic calming measures may be warranted, either in design of new subdivisions and site plans or to address traffic intrusion and/or speed issues on existing streets and to select the most appropriate treatment to apply.

The follow traffic calming measures have been considered as viable options to implement:

- Police enforcement
- Community Safety Zones
- Radar speed display signs
- Lane narrowing via pavement markings
- Curb extensions

- Speed bumps/humps
- Speed tables
- Center medians
- Traffic circles
- Pavement markings/treatments

To ensure measures are properly considered and negative impacts are minimized, Traffic Calming should be considered:

1. When there is a demonstrated safety, excessive speed, or shortcutting traffic concern and acceptable alternative measures have been exhausted;
2. After exploring methods to improve operation of the arterial road network, such as signal timing optimization; and
3. Only after education, enforcement, and traffic engineering efforts have failed to produce the desired results.

Consultation Overview:

Municipal staff consultation

Origin:

Report was initiated by the Infrastructure and Development department to address public concern about increased speed and volume of traffic in parts of the community.

Implementation Considerations:

Staff are proposing that the implementation of Traffic Calming and CSZ's to be undertaken within the current staffing complement. The tasks involved include reviews of requests and evaluating areas to align with policies, as well as proposing funds to allow upgrades.

Risk Analysis:

The implementation of Traffic Calming can negatively impact other roadways and will require evaluation.

Attachments: Traffic Calming Implementation Policy
The Use and Installation of Community Safety Zones Policy

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