**RECOMMENDATION**

The following recommendation is provided for the Committee of the Whole’s consideration:

*That Committee of the Whole recommend to Council that the speed limit on Slater Road, within the boundaries of the Heckston hamlet, be reduced to 50 km/h and that the necessary by-law amendments be approved.*

**BACKGROUND**

Slater Road is a rural road that runs east-west at the south-east corner of the Municipality of North Grenville. The section that was assessed runs between County Road 22 (South Gower Drive) and the Heckston hamlet boundary, which is about 430 m east from County Road 22. There is currently no posted speed, so the speed limit has been assumed to be the default speed for rural roadways of 80 km/h as per the standards outlined in the *Ontario Highway Traffic Act (HTA)*. A resident has submitted a traffic concern form stating that vehicles are travelling at high rates of speed along the road and it is a danger to pedestrians.

**ANALYSIS**

After receiving the concern, the Public Works Department assessed the roadway using the *HTA*, Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO), and Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) guidelines. Speed and vehicle volume data was collected using road tubes and used for the speed reduction assessment.

Upon examining the location of Slater Road, it was noted that since it is within the boundaries of the Heckston hamlet, it is located within a built-up area under the TAC guidelines. The default speed limit within built-up areas is 50 km/h as outlined in the *HTA*. No other roadway characteristics that were assessed warranted a reduction in speed so the speed limit of 50 km/h satisfies the *HTA*, TAC, and MTO guidelines. The Public Works Department recommends officially lowering the speed limit to 50 km/h on this section of road and posting signs to alert drivers of this change.

**ALTERNATIVES**

1. Not implement the speed reduction – not recommended based on the assessments of the road and intersection that were assessed and the safety concerns that were identified.
FINANCIAL/STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

This item has been identified in the current budget: Yes □ No X N/A □
This item is within the budgeted amount: Yes □ No X N/A □

In general, the purchase of one sign costs approximately $150 plus in-house installation costs. The cost for the purchase of 4 signs is estimated at $600 and will be funded through the Public Works operational road signage line item.

Staffing implications, as they relate to implementing Council’s decision on this matter, are limited to the existing staff complement and applicable administrative policies as approved by Council.

LINK TO COUNCIL WORK PLAN 2019

This report will help to contribute towards the objective of creating safer roads and sidewalks.

Prepared by: Ryan Brault, M. Eng
Engineering Technologist

Reviewed by: Marcus Hewitt
Director of Finance

Original signed by Karen Dunlop
Director of Public Works

Recommendation submitted for Committee of the Whole consideration by:

Brian J. Carré
CAO
REPORT

Date: August 30, 2019
To: Karen Dunlop
From: Kristina Ward
Subject: Slater Road Speed Reduction

BACKGROUND

Slater Road is a rural road that runs East-West at the south-east corner of the Municipality of North Grenville, within the boundaries of the Heckston hamlet (Appendix 1). It is classified as a collector roadway under industry standards as it serves a moderate volume of traffic ‘collected’ from local streets and distributes them to arterial roadways. There is no posted speed limit for this roadway, so it is set to the default for roads within built-up areas of 50 km/h corresponding with the standards outlined in the Ontario Highway Traffic Act (HTA).

The 430 m section of Slater Road that was evaluated runs from County Road 22 to the first bend in the road. There are 11 private access driveways along this section and a resident has submitted a traffic concern outlining that vehicles are speeding along this section of road and it is a danger to pedestrians (Appendix 2).

Since receiving the traffic concern, the Public Works department has utilized speed collection equipment to analyze the speed of traffic and determine whether the OPP should be notified of a recommendation for further enforcement action to be taken – the assessment of this data has been attached (Appendix 3).

To address the issue of a concern for a reduced speed, an appropriate speed limit is to be determined and compared to the posted speed limit. At this time, the Municipality of North Grenville utilizes the HTA to determine the appropriate speed limits for roadways. The factors which are assessed during the lowering of a roadway speed limit are:

A. Horizontal alignment
B. Vertical alignment
C. Roadside hazards
D. Pedestrian exposure
E. Number of private access driveways along the road
F. Number and type of traffic accidents

The road classification may affect how some of the conditions are looked at. Site specific circumstances will be noted and considered in the assessment.

Once a full speed assessment has been completed, the Public Works department is prepared to establish an appropriate recommendation as to the process of restoring the roadway to the intended function for all road users.
ANALYSIS

The speed assessment has been completed for this section of Slater Road and has been attached (Appendix 3). This information represents the main source of data that will be used throughout this report.

Establishing an appropriate speed limit is done through guidelines laid out in the HTA, by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO), and the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) which highlights the road characteristics that must be addressed when determining if a lower speed limit is warranted. In compliance with the HTA, MTO, and TAC guidelines, the speed limit on all roads within built-up areas is set to 50 km/h. The speed can also be lowered based on certain conditions of the road. This section of Slater Road is part of the Heckston hamlet and therefore has a speed limit of 50 km/h. A description of Slater Road is provided for each of the road characteristics that determine whether a lower speed limit is warranted:

A. Horizontal alignment – Minor issue, there is a curve at the end of the road section that was evaluated, however it does not cause any major sightline restrictions.
B. Vertical alignment – Non-issue, there are no significant changes in elevation along this roadway.
C. Roadside hazards – Minor issue, the residences located along the roadway are set off the roadway by no less than 10 m creating a non-issue. There are multiple trees along the roadway, which is typical for this class of road, that do not affect the roadway itself and as such should not be considered.
D. Pedestrian exposure – Minor issue, no pedestrian generators in the area other than private residences and a small restaurant / convenience store at the intersection with County Rd 22.
E. Number of private access driveways along the road – Minor issue, there are 11 private access driveways along the 430 m section of road which gives an average density of 2.5 private access driveways per 100 m of road.
F. Number and type of traffic accidents – Non-issue, the Public Works department has not been informed of any traffic accidents in this area relating to the characteristics of the road or speeds of vehicles.

The roadway characteristics identified do not warrant a reduction of speed, so the 50 km/h speed limit is up to standard. However, since there are no posted signs indicating the reduced speed limit, it has been assumed that the speed limit is 80 km/h along all of Slater Road.

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Works department recommends installing signs with the 50 km/h speed limit within the hamlet, to alert drivers of the reduced speed limit.
Appendix 1

The section of Slater Road that was assessed is outlined in blue on the map.
Appendix 2
Traffic Concern Form

MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH GRENVILLE
Traffic Concern Form

Type of Problem: (Check all that apply)
- ☒ Pedestrian Safety
- ☒ Speeding Vehicles
- ☐ Traffic Volume
- ☐ Road Hazard
- ☐ Through Traffic
- ☐ Parking
- ☐ Intersection
- ☐ Other Safety Issue
- ☐ Other

Street or Area of Concern: (Specific location of concern)
SLATER ROAD EAST OF #22

Description of Problem:
Speeding Traffic 7am - 7pm Monday - Friday

Time of Day When Problem Occurs:
See above.

When Problem Started:
January 2022

Possible Cause of Problem:
No Speed Indication Signs

Desired Outcome:
Put up and enforce Speed Signs - Children live and play on this road

Name:
Address:
Day Phone:

* To be accepted, all fields of this form must be complete
** All personal information will be kept confidential
*** Please complete this form and email to the Public Works Clerk at cfequet@northgrenville.on.ca
Appendix 3
Speed Assessment

DATE: August 21, 2019
TO: Karen Dunlop
FROM: Kristina Ward
RE: Slater Rd Speed Assessment

The radar speed sign with data logger was placed on Slater Rd on 30/07/2019. Local residences have expressed concern about the speed at which travellers of the road are driving and an increased volume of traffic. The results of the speed assessment are shown below.

Date: August 21, 2019
Street: Slater Rd
Location: 612 Slater Rd
Reason for Assessment: Resident Concern

AADT (vehicles/24h): 240

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Eastbound</th>
<th>Westbound</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date Started:</td>
<td>30/07/2019</td>
<td>30/07/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample Size:</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours Recording:</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speed Limit (km/h):</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean Speed (km/h):</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Speed (km/h):</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85th Percentile (km/h):</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90th Percentile (km/h):</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note:
Assessment Start Date: 30/07/2019
Outliers (Removed): 0-20 km/h

The current speed limit on Slater Rd is 80 km/h, and based on the information gathered by the assessment the majority of traffic is travelling within an acceptable range of this. It is also noted that the volume of traffic has an AADT of 240 cars per day.

Based on this information, at this time there is no warrant for concern about the speed of travellers on Slater Rd. No action should be taken.
APPENDIX A: Approximate Location of Data Collector