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Town of Aurora

General Committee Report

No. PDS23-108

Subject: Centre Street Speed Limit Amendment

Prepared by: Michael Bat, Traffic and Transportation Analyst

Department: Planning and Development Services

Date: September 5, 2023

Recommendation

1. That Report No. PDS23-108 be received; and
2. That a by-law to amend Parking By-law No. 4574-04.T be enacted to reduce the speed limit on Centre Street between the Metrolinx GO Transit Corridor (west limit) and a point 90 metres west thereof from 40 km/h to 30 km/h.

Executive Summary

This report presents to Council the proposed speed limit reduction on Centre Street to support Metrolinx's Barrie Line Go Expansion project.

- The existing road conditions on Centre Street are generally consistent with the Town's design standards for a local road; and,
- To meet the Federal regulatory design elements outlined in the Transport Canada's Grade Crossing Standards and the minimum sightline requirements prescribed in the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) manual; the proposed reprofiling will result in a required speed reduction from the existing speed limit of 40 km/h to 30 km/h on the impacted section of Centre Street.

Background

The Barrie Line GO Expansion project being undertaken by Metrolinx will include modifications and upgrades to the existing rail corridor to allow for a second track to be installed. The installation of a second track will transform GO rail from a rush-hour service to a more frequent two-way, all-day rapid transit service.

As part of the project, a 50m section of Centre Street, from the west limit of the rail corridor will be reprofiled. This will include modifications to the existing slope.

As advised by Metrolinx, the construction for the reprofiling and second track installation at Centre Street is tentatively scheduled in Spring 2025.

The subject location is illustrated in Figure 1 attached.

Analysis

The existing road conditions on Centre Street are generally consistent with the Town's Engineering Design Standards for a local road

Centre street is a two-lane local road with a single lane per travel direction. It has an urban cross section with curbs and sidewalks on the north side of the road. The current posted speed limit is 40km/h.

The existing pavement width varies between 7.5m and 8.0m with a right-of-way (ROW) between 14.0m to 20.0m.

To meet the Federal regulatory design elements outlined in the Transport Canada Grade Crossing Standards and the minimum sightline requirements prescribed in the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) manual, the identified portion of Centre Street will require a speed reduction from the existing speed limit of 40 km/h to 30 km/h.

As a result of the Barrie Line GO Expansion project, a second track will be added on the west side of the existing track, to prepare for a future two-way, all-day rapid transit service.

In the design of the second track, Metrolinx will be required to reprofile the road, increasing its slope to not negatively impact drainage patterns to neighbouring properties. The increase in slope will compromise the current sightlines for vehicular traffic making the design unable to meet Transport Canada regulatory requirements and guidelines at the current speed limit. To meet sightline requirements at this steeper reprofiling, the speed limit is required to be reduced from 40km/h to 30 km/h.

Advisory Committee Review

A memorandum (Report No. PDS23-082) was presented at the Active Transportation and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (Committee) meeting on June 28, 2023. The Committee is in support of the proposed speed limit amendment.

Legal Considerations

If Council approves the change to the speed limit, a bylaw will be brought forward to Council to amend Parking By-law No. 4574-04.T.

Financial Implications

The estimated cost for the replacement of the speed limit signs is \$1,000 to be funded from the Operations Services Department's existing 2023 operating budget.

Communications Considerations

The Town of Aurora will inform the public about the information contained in this report by posting this report to the Town's website. The Communications team will also inform the public about any potential traffic disruptions during the installation of the speed limit signs through the Town's regular communications channels.

Climate Change Considerations

The recommendations from this report does not impact greenhouse gas emissions or impact climate change adaptation.

Link to Strategic Plan

This report supports the Strategic Plan goal of Support an Exceptional Quality of Life for All by examining traffic patterns and identify potential solutions to improve movement and safety at key intersections in the community.

Alternative(s) to the Recommendation

1. That Council provide direction.

Conclusions

The Barrie Line GO Expansion project being undertaken by Metrolinx will include modifications and upgrades to the existing rail corridor to allow for a second track to be installed. The installation of a second track will transform GO rail from a rush-hour service to a more frequent two-way, all-day rapid transit service.

As part of the project, a 50 metres section of Centre Street, from the west limit of the rail corridor will be reprofiled. This will include modifications to the existing slope.

To meet the Federal regulatory design elements outlined in the Transport Canada Grade Crossing Standards and the minimum sightline requirements prescribed in the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) manual, the proposed reprofiling will result in a required speed reduction from the existing speed limit of 40 km/h to 30 km/h on the impacted section of Centre Street.

Attachments

Figure 1: Location Map

Previous Reports

PDS23-082, Centre Street Speed Limit Amendment, June 28, 2023

Pre-submission Review

Agenda Management Team review on August 17, 2023

Approvals

Approved by Marco Ramunno, Director, Planning and Development Services

Approved by Doug Nadorozny, Chief Administrative Officer