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Town of Aurora

Memorandum

Planning and Development Services

Re: Automated Speed Enforcement Pilot Program and Community Safety Zones

To: Active Transportation and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee

From: Michael Bat, Traffic and Transportation Analyst

Date: September 25, 2024

Recommendation

1. That the memorandum regarding Automated Speed Enforcement Pilot Program and Community Safety Zones be received; and
2. That the Active Transportation and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee comments regarding Automated Speed Enforcement Pilot Program and Community Safety Zones be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

Background

At the October 6, 2020, General Committee meeting, Council passed a motion requesting staff report back on the findings of the Region's Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) program following the completion of its two-year pilot program.

ASE is an automated system that uses a camera and a speed measurement device to detect and capture images of vehicles travelling above the posted speed limit. The captured images are reviewed by Provincial Offences Officers and tickets are issued to the registered owner of the subject vehicle. Upon conviction, the only penalty is a fine, no demerit points are issued nor will the registered owners driving record be impacted.

In December 2019, the Province of Ontario passed Bill 65, the Safer School Zones Act, which amended the Highway Traffic Act to further increase safety for vulnerable road users and improve driver behaviour. This legislation permits municipalities to implement and operate ASE technology to enforce speeding traffic offences in school and Community Safety Zones (CSZ) on roads with a speed limit under 80 km/h. This

legislation was supplemented by O. Reg 398/19 by setting out procedural rules for ASE systems.

In July 2022, the Province of Ontario amended the Highway Traffic Act (O. Reg 355/22) to permit municipalities to establish a system of administrative penalties for the enforcement of camera-based contraventions captured by ASE systems.

Analysis

York Region has completed the two-year, ASE pilot program, and given its effectiveness to enhance overall road safety, Regional Council has authorized the continuation of ASE program on Regional roads.

Community Safety Zones (CSZ) are designated stretch of roadways, recognized under provincial legislation, marked with CSZ signs allowing for the doubling of fines if road users are caught speeding. Through Bill 65 (Safer School Zones Act, 2017), the use of an ASE system can be implemented in these designated areas.

The following streets are currently designated as CSZs under Town Parking By-law No. 4574-04.T – Schedule XVIII:

- Orchard Heights Boulevard: from Laurentide Avenue to Yonge Street
- McClellan Way: from Henderson Drive to Bathurst Street
- Murray Drive: from Wellington Street West to Kennedy Street West
- Stone Road: from Bayview Avenue (north leg) to Bayview Avenue (south leg)

Staff recommends designating the frontages of all schools on Town roads as CSZs. This will help reduce aggressive driving behaviour and speeding in areas with a high concentration of vulnerable road users (i.e. school children). In addition, these zones will also be eligible for the ASE program and coupled with the benefit of speeding fines being doubled along these key walking and biking routes to schools.

As outlined in the *Safer School Zones Act (2017)*, the use of an ASE program can only be implemented within CSZs. As part of the ASE pilot program implementation, these CSZs will be used as areas for installation. A follow-up staff report will be presented to Council with a detailed ASE implementation plan that will include further details such as logistics, financial considerations, camera types to be used and ticketing processing options. This program will be developed in collaboration with By-Law Enforcement.