

Town of Riverview

COUNCIL REPORT FORM



Presented to: Mayor & Council

Department: Engineering and Public Works

Date: April 12, 2024

Subject: Hillsborough Road Speed Reduction and New Pavement
Markings (Old Coach Road to Harmony)

BACKGROUND

Hillsborough Road is scheduled to undergo a resurfacing this upcoming construction season from Old Coach Road to Harmony Drive. Considering that the current lane-markings will be removed when the asphalt is milled, this provides the opportunity to change the lane markings on this section of road without having to obliterate the lane-markings. It was suggested that the overall layout be assessed to allow for the implementation of the active transportation plan and the introduction of a new speed reduction zone, namely the extension of the existing bike lanes west to Point Park Drive.

In 2015, the Town Council of the Town of Riverview had requested the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DTI) to consider extending the 50 km/h zone on Hillsborough Road further to the east. Currently Hillsborough Road transitions from a 70 km/h zone near the eastern Town Limits to a 60 km/h zone with a further reduction to 50 km/h just east of Old Coach Road. In 2020, the Minister of DTI relinquished its authority over setting speed limits on provincial roads within a municipality. In 2020, we had identified this project as a priority for the Town under the then named Designated Highway Program (now referred to as PMHP). The province then changed the program into a 3-year program and allocated the funding in the 3rd year of the program, i.e. 2024.

The 60 km/h zone was established on Hillsborough Road many years ago. Since this time, the eastern areas of Town have experienced significant residential growth resulting in additional residential streets and driveway access to Hillsborough Road and increased pedestrian activity both along the street as well as an increase in demand for crossing Hillsborough Road. The area is also experiencing current and additional planned development. The Town has responded to these realities by providing sidewalk and crosswalks along Hillsborough Road as well as marked bicycle lanes. This has resulted in a more urban cross section on Hillsborough Road.

In 2020, Bridgedale Boulevard was created as a connection from Gunningsville to the east of Riverview, allowing for a second arterial for regional traffic to cross the eastern portion of Riverview and access Gunningsville Bridge. Although Bridgedale Boulevard is only built par way, to Runneymeade Road, the Town envisions the boulevard will extend to the far eastern limits of the Town boundary allowing for an alternative east-west connection to alleviating the traffic volume on Hillsborough Road.

The adjusted speed limit on Hillsborough Road to extend the 50 km/h zone east by approximately 1.3 km will provide an approximately 1.0 km long 60 km/h speed transition zone for traffic entering the Town from the east before reducing to the urban posted 50 km/h speed zone at Harmony Drive.



Figure 1 - Hillsborough Road Speed Zone Modification

The change is supported by a recent speed analysis which identified the 85th percentile speed in the proposed transition zone at 63 km/h. It is expected that this speed to drop below 60 km/h when the new pavement markings are applied.

CONSIDERATIONS

Legal: N/A

Financial:

Since the section of roadway is being milled, there would be no additional cost of obliterating the painted lane markings. The cost of the new lane-markings is included in the Hillsborough resurfacing project.

Policy: N/A

Stakeholders:

Residents and Council have expressed concerns about speeding in this section of Hillsborough.

Strategic Plan:

Safe and Welcoming Community

Interdepartmental Consultation: N/A

Communication Plan: N/A

OPTIONS

Option 1 - Implement proposed lane-marking layout, eliminate the second westbound lane, extend the bike lanes west to Point Park Drive, and reduce the speed limit between Harmony and Transaqua to 50 km/h.

Option 2 - Reinstate the lane-markings according to the current layout.

RECOMMENDATION FROM STAFF

Town Council directs to staff to proceed with option 1. The proposed new lane-marking plan be implemented on Hillsborough Road once the street resurfacing is completed.