



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Public Works & Engineering Services

To: Policies and Priorities Committee

From: Phil Bartnik, Director Public Works & Engineering Services

Date to Council: March 26, 2024

Report Number: PWES-2024-18

Subject: Community Safety Zones Policy 123

Recommendations

It is recommended:

That Report PWES-2024-18 Community Safety Zones Policy 123 **be received**;

And that Policy 123 in Attachment 1 to Report PWES-2024-18 Community Safety Zone Policy 123 **be recommended for approval and adoption by Council** at the April 9, 2024 Regular Council Meeting;

And further that the recommended update to Schedule A (List of Community Safety Zones) of the Community Safety Zone By-law 2015-53, as amended, **be prepared and considered by Council** through the adoption of an Amending By-law at the April 9, 2024 Regular Council Meeting;

And furthermore that Administrative Report PWES-2024-18, Policy 123 and the Motion of Council **be sent** to the Clerk for the County of Essex requesting they be placed on the next regular meeting of County Council's Agenda, for consideration to amend the effective times to "24 hours/day, 7 days per week" for those County Roads listed in Schedule "I" of County By-law 51-2013 that are located within the Town of Tecumseh.

Background

At the December 11, 2018 Regular Council Meeting, Council approved the recommendations within report [PWES-2018-08](#), titled “2019-2023 Public Works & Environmental Services Five Year Capital Works Plan” that authorized Administration to complete a traffic calming study (Motion: RCM-361/18). The study intended to review the general policies on traffic calming, outline the process for determining if a problem exists and the process for addressing inquiries from the public in an efficient and consistent manner.

As the study progressed, and as public inquiries were received on a variety of traffic-related issues, Administration identified several traffic-related policies and programs required to assist in handling those inquiries, which include the following:

- Speed Management and Traffic Calming Policy
- School Safety Zone Policy
- Community Safety Zone Policy
- Controlled Pedestrian Crossing Policy
- School Crossing Guard Program

This Administrative report provides key technical information and regulations relating to implementing Community Safety Zones (CSZ). The attached policy will provide PWES staff with a transparent and consistent process to follow to determine the need for CSZ on municipal roads under the jurisdiction of the Town.

Comments

Governing Regulations

The most relevant regulations that govern CSZ implementation include the Ontario Traffic Manual (OTM), the *Highway Traffic Act* (HTA), and Bill 26, *Highway Traffic Amendment Act (Community Safety Zones)*, 1998.

The OTM provides specific information and guidance for engineering transportation practitioners to promote uniformity of treatment in the design, application, and operation of traffic control devices and systems across Ontario. Safe driving behaviour is promoted by implementing a predictable roadway environment through the consistent, appropriate application of traffic control devices.

The OTM consists of a series of 22 separately bound books and provides policy and practical guidance on the full range of traffic control devices. Two books within the OTM series are of particular interest in the policy presented, including ‘Book 5: Regulatory Signs’, and ‘Book 6: Warning Signs’. The policy presented herein follows the guidance presented in these two OTM Books.

Technical Information

CSZ were introduced in Ontario in 1998, through Bill 26 mentioned above, to allow the designation of sections of roadway where public safety is of special concern.

The OTM Book 5, Regulatory Signs, states:

- “Community Safety Zone signs inform drivers that they are entering a zone that the community has designated as an area where the safety of its children/citizens is paramount.”

The purpose of the CSZ sign is to indicate to motorists that they are within a zone where fines have been increased through a special designation under the *Highway Traffic Act*. All rules of the road remain unchanged in a CSZ except that traffic-related offences committed within the CSZ are subject to increased fines due to the increased sensitivity of the subject area.

Tecumseh Transportation Master Plan

The Tecumseh Transportation Master Plan (TMP) was completed in June 2017. The TMP presents a dynamic, sustainable multi-modal transportation strategy to accommodate future population and employment growth in Tecumseh. The TMP establishes principles, policies and a network framework to guide the development of Tecumseh’s future transportation system.

The TMP includes Operational Policies that document the Town’s preferred methods for network operations. One of the operational policies included in the TMP is establishing CSZ.

Policy 123 includes the best practices presented in the TMP and provides further detail and direction concerning the warrants that must be met to implement CSZ.

Warrants

The policy reinforces that only certain sites are appropriate for CSZ designation including:

- Elementary or Secondary Schools;
- Public Parks;
- Senior centres and residences;
- Community centres; and
- Collision-prone areas.

In accordance with the HTA, only sites that have a posted speed limit of 60 km/hr or less can be considered for this designation. Further, the policy outlines other warrants including collision crash data, police feedback data, and physical attributes of the location that must be met to be suitable for CSZ designation.

Community Safety Zone By-law 2015-53

The Town's current Community Safety Zone By-law 2015-53 was approved by Council on August 11, 2015. It identifies fifteen (15) locations designated as a CSZ within the Town, fourteen (14) of which are located on municipal roads and one located on County Road 34. Each CSZ has an effective time, day and month where increased fines are in effect. These CSZ designations do not take effect until the required signs are installed.

As part of creation of Policy 123, the HTA and OTM were reviewed as well as the Town's existing Community Safety Zone By-law 2015-53. Administration is recommending the following revisions to By-law 2015-53, which would come into effect through adoption of an amending by-law:

1) Removal of the CSZ located on County Road 34

Section 214.1(1) of the HTA states: "The council of a municipality may by by-law designate a part of a highway under its jurisdiction as a community safety zone if, in the council's opinion, public safety is of special concern on that part of the highway".

As County Road 34 is not under the jurisdiction of the Town of Tecumseh it should be removed from the municipal by-law. It is noted that this section of County Road 34 is designated as a CSZ within the County of Essex's By-law 51-2013 and will remain in effect.

2) Revise the CSZ effective time to 24 hours/day, 7 days/week.

Section 214.1(3) of the HTA states: "a by-law or regulation designating a community safety zone shall specify the hours, days and months when the designation is in effect".

This standardization of times and dates for all CSZ in Tecumseh is to enhance the ease of enforcement and is consistent with best practices throughout Ontario.

3) Revise the CSZ on Tecumseh Road which currently fronts DM Eagle Public School

The Greater Essex County District School Board is currently constructing the new Beacon Heights Public School at 13800 Tecumseh Road (150 m west of Arlington Road), which will be the replacement for DM Eagle Public School. It is

recommended to relocate the CSZ on Tecumseh Road to align with the new Beacon Heights Public School in advance of its opening.

County of Essex By-law 51-2013, Schedule “I” Community Safety Zones

There are three CSZ within Tecumseh that are located on County Roads and are captured within County By-law 51-2013. These consist of County Road 34 (Malden to 500 metres easterly), County Road 42 (County Road 43 to Lesperance Road) and County Road 43 (County Road 42 to CP Rail). The effective time for these CSZs is identified as 7:00am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday.

It is desirable to have the County of Essex revise County By-law 51-2013 to have the effective times 24 hours/day, 7 days per week. This would coincide with the update to Tecumseh’s By-law 2015-53 and would standardize all CSZ within Tecumseh for the ease of enforcement.

Consultations

County of Essex
Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)
SSL Project Services

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

If, through following the policy, a new CSZ is warranted, the road segment will be added to a report to Council at the end of each calendar year. This report will summarize all traffic-related recommendations, including those governed by this policy. The report will also recommend that the works be included as part of the annual PWES Capital Works Plan, for the following calendar year(s).

Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	2023-2026 Strategic Priorities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustainable Growth: Achieve prosperity and a livable community through sustainable growth.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Health and Inclusion: Integrate community health and inclusion into our places and spaces and everything we do.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Service Experience: Enhance the experience of Team Tecumseh and our citizens through responsive and respectful service.

Communications

Not applicable

Website

Social Media

News Release

Local Newspaper

This report has been reviewed by Senior Administration as indicated below and recommended for submission by the Chief Administrative Officer.

Prepared by:

Phil Bartnik, P.Eng.
Director Public Works & Engineering Services

Recommended by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment Number	Attachment Name
1	Policy 123 – Community Safety Zones