



SPEED ZONE POLICY

Town of Torbay

June 2016

Final







Harbourside Transportation Consultants
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June - 28 - 2016	Final	C. McCarthy	M. MacDonald	R. King
DATE	STATUS	PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	APPROVED BY
Town of Torbay			CLIENT	

Town of Torbay

Speed Limit Policy

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for establishing and reviewing posted speed limits within, or in close proximity to, the Town of Torbay. Recommendations resulting from this policy are subject to the approval of jurisdiction having authority.

Policy Statement:

Setting Posted Speed Limits

Speed limits will be reviewed using the Transportation Association of Canada's (TAC) Speed Limit Guidelines. These guidelines will help determine if a speed limit change is warranted and what the new speed should be for the subject roadway. The resulting speed limit will typically fall within the recommended speed limits outlined in Table 1.

Table 1 – Recommended Posted Speed Limits

Road Classification	Posted Speed (km/hr)
Major Arterials	50 - 80
Minor & Multi-Purpose Arterials	50 - 60
Collectors	50
Locals	40 - 50

The resulting speed limit may be set below the recommended speed limit when:

- Constrained by the physical characteristics of the road, such as the design speed,
- Required for heightened safety in sensitive areas such as school and playground areas,
- Pedestrians and cyclists travel without a protected or exclusive lane or sidewalk,
- Required temporarily for safety in a construction zone,
- The 85th percentile speeds are significantly lower than the recommended speed, or,
- There is a significantly higher than normal frequency of, or severity of, collisions attributable to excessive speeds.

Speed limits will be set between 40 km/hr and 80 km/hr in increments of 10 km/hr.

The recommended transitional speed limit change is 20 km/hr per increment to give drivers opportunity to alter their driving speed.

The minimum length of a speed zone should be 500m for posted speeds of 70km/hr or less, and 1,000m for speeds posted higher than 70 km/hr.

For roadway passing through school frontage, the following shall apply:

- Roadways with less than 2,000 vehicles per day, a speed limit of 40 km/hr should be applied to these areas at all times of the day.
- Arterial roadways and roadways with traffic volumes over 2,000 vehicles per day should be considered for a part-time reduced speed zone (flashing 40 km/hr zone).
- The 40 km/hr speed limit would apply to the portion of roadway which is directly fronting the school property and includes a section 150 metres in either direction beyond the edge of the land designated as being for school use.
- The point beyond 150 metres from the edge of the school shall revert back to the speed limit that governed prior to entering the school zone. The reverted speed limit should not be more than 60 km/hr.
- The 40 km/hr zone may be extended if it results in an adjacent speed limit that is too short to adequately enforce.

Roads that do not have a speed limit posted are limited to 50 km/hr unless otherwise posted.

Annual Review of Speed Limits

The Town will undertake annual measurements of operating speeds at select locations on the Town road system. The extent and scope of this review will depend on the budget allocated to this activity by the Municipal Council.

Based on these measurements, the 85th percentile speeds will be compared with the speed limits to identify those locations with significant variance between these two speeds.

For locations where the 85th percentile speeds are significantly higher or significantly lower than the speed limit (more than 10 km/h higher or more than 10 km/h lower than the speed limit) a review of the speed limit will be undertaken using the methodology outlined within the Speed Limit Policy. Input from the RNC will also be requested to receive their experience in speed enforcement at the location and any general concerns.

Based on the review, Town staff may recommend one of the following courses of action:

1. No action is required
2. The operating speed is too high and need to be controlled through one of the following measures:
 - a. Increased enforcement by the RNC
 - b. Use of other measures, such as driver feedback signs
 - c. Introduction of design features aimed at reducing speeds and improving safety
3. The posted speed limit is too low and should be raised
4. The posted speed limit is too high and should be lowered

The results and recommendations of the annual review will be submitted to Council for consideration.

In situations in which the speed limits are to be recommended by staff for either lowering or increasing, the residents fronting onto the affected section of roadway will be notified of the recommendations prior to it being submitted to Council.

Requests by Members of the Public to Change Speed Limits

A request by a member of the public to change the speed limit at a specific location on a Town of Torbay road should be addressed through the Town of Torbay's Traffic Calming Policy.

The results and recommendations of the annual review, related to the specific location, will be communicated to the requestor and other interested parties, prior to it being submitted to Council.

In situations in which there is a proposed speed limit change from the individual reviews, the residents fronting on the affected road section will be notified of the staff recommendations prior to it being submitted to Council.

Once the speed limit change has been adopted by Council, efforts will be made to notify the public about the changes.

Scope:

This policy applies to all roadways under the Town of Torbay jurisdiction.

Objectives:

The intent of this policy is to ensure that safe speed limits are set and to strike a balance between a variety of objectives such as convenience, efficiency, energy conservation, and minimizing environmental impact.

Definitions:

For the purpose of this policy, unless otherwise stated, the following definitions shall apply:

Term	Definition
Posted Speed Limit	The speed prescribed for motor vehicles on a section of road by municipal by-law and signed accordingly.
Design Speed	The speed selected as a basis to establish appropriate geometric design elements for a particular section of road so that drivers can travel safely at that speed under ideal conditions.
Operating Speed	The speed at which a driver is observed operating a vehicle at a particular location.
85 th Percentile Speed	The maximum speed at which 85 percent of the drivers are observed to travel at a particular location.
Road Classification	The classification by road function, which is in accordance with the Town's road classification plan.
School	Schools are educational institutions that are attended primarily by children. This includes elementary schools, middle schools and high schools. No distinction is made between public and private schools.
Playground	Playgrounds are recreational facilities utilized primarily by children. This includes outdoor playgrounds with play equipment, sports fields, ball diamonds and tot lots (areas with play equipment and benches/picnic tables).

Roles:

Accountable:

The Town of Torbay is responsible for the timely review, updating and dissemination of the policy to the functional areas.

Responsible:

The Town of Torbay is responsible for the tasks to complete the work of this policy.