

Region of Waterloo
Transportation Services
Transportation

To: Sustainability, Infrastructure, and Development Committee
Meeting Date: May 6, 2025
Report Title: Traffic and Parking Bylaw Changes for School and Community Safety Zones

1. Recommendation

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo, in support of the Region's Municipal Speed Camera Program:

1. Amend Traffic and Parking By-law 16-023 – Schedule 23 (School Zones), effective May 26, 2025 as outlined in Appendix A;
2. Amend Traffic and Parking By-law 16-023 – Schedule 17 (Rates of Speed), effective May 26, 2025 as outlined in Appendix B; and
3. Amend Traffic and Parking By-law 16-023 – Schedule 21 (Community Safety Zones), effective May 26, 2025 as outlined in Appendix C.

As presented in Report TSD-TRP-25-007 dated May 6, 2025.

2. Purpose / Issue:

This report sets out recommendations for amendments to the Region's Traffic and Parking By-Law (16-023) and the associated Schedules which are designed to enhance community safety by reducing traffic-related risks for vulnerable road users. The proposed changes, in support of the Region's Municipal Speed Camera program, include designating additional School Zones in Schedule 23, designating new and modifying two existing Community Safety Zones in Schedule 21, and ensuring consistent speed limits near and within the Region's School Zones in Schedule 17.

These amendments will apply along several Regional Roads within the City of Cambridge, City of Kitchener, City of Waterloo, Township of Wellesley, Township of Wilmot, and Township of Woolwich.

3. Strategic Plan:

The recommendations in this report align with the Region's 2023-2027 Growing with Care Strategic Plan under the following key areas:

- Climate Aligned Growth:
 - Foster car-alternative options through complete streets and extended alternative transportation networks.
- Equitable Services and Opportunities:
 - Ensures that regional services are designed to meet the diverse needs of all communities, promoting fairness and inclusivity.

4. Report Highlights:

The proposed amendments seek to enhance community safety by expanding School Zones, modifying speed limits, and designating new Community Safety Zones at select locations in Kitchener, Cambridge, Waterloo, Wellesley, Wilmot, and Woolwich.

Benefits of the proposed amendments include improved safety for vulnerable road users (pedestrians, cyclists, horse & buggies), reduced traffic violations, and heightened community awareness around the importance of slower speeds near schools.

The amendments include new School Zone designations, additional areas requiring changes to the posted speed limits, new Community Safety Zone designations, existing Community Safety Zone boundary extension, and a corrective road name change.

New School Zones Designations:

Staff are recommending two new School Zone designations at the following locations:

1. Arthur Street North at North Woolwich Parochial School, Township of Woolwich
2. Katherine Street at West Montrose Parochial School, Township of Woolwich

New Community Safety Zone Designations:

Staff have identified the next set of recommended sites for Community Safety Zone designations. These will be layered on to the School Zones located along Regional Roads that are scheduled to have active with planned Municipal Speed Camera enforcement in the near future (15 in total). The proposed amendments specify the boundaries of each of the 15 new Community Safety Zones, as determined through the Region's new Community Safety Zone warrant process, adopted by Regional Council in October 2024. The 15 proposed new Community Safety Zones are as follows:

1. Hergott Road at Countryside Christian School, Township of Wellesley
2. Manser Road near Linwood Public School, Township of Wellesley
3. Erb Street West at Kitchener-Waterloo Bilingual School, City of Waterloo
4. Weber Street North at St. David Catholic Secondary School, City of Waterloo
5. Fairway Road North near Chicopee Hills Public School, City of Kitchener
6. Westmount Road East at Forest Hill Public School, City of Kitchener
7. Weber Street East near Eastwood Collegiate Institute, City of Kitchener
8. Bridge Street West at Bridgeport Public School, City of Kitchener
9. University Avenue West at Resurrection Catholic Secondary School, City of Kitchener
10. Fischer-Hallman Road at Forest Heights Collegiate Institute, City of Kitchener
11. Weber Street East at Sheppard Public School, City of Kitchener
12. Dundas Street North at Manchester Public School, City of Cambridge
13. Water Street North at Galt Collegiate Institute, City of Cambridge
14. Maple Grove Road at Ecole Secondaire Catholique Pere-Rene-De-Galinee, City of Cambridge
15. Myers Road at Monsignor Doyle Catholic Secondary School and Cambridge Christian School, City of Cambridge

Existing Community Safety Zone Boundary Extension:

To support a consistent application of Community Safety Zone boundaries, staff recommend extending the boundaries of two existing zones to ensure they reach 250 meters from the vulnerable user location. These include extensions along Victoria Street South at Sandhills Public School and St. Dominic Savio Catholic School in Kitchener, and Snyder's Road West at Sir Adam Beck Public School and Waterloo Oxford District Secondary School in the Township of Wilmot.

Change to Posted Speed Limits:

Staff recommend reducing the posted speed limit to 40 km/h or create a speed transition zone of 60 km/h at the following school locations:

- Chicopee Hills Public School (Fairway Road North, City of Kitchener) – within a Community Safety Zone.

- École Secondaire Catholique Père-René-de-Galinée (Maple Grove Road, City of Cambridge) – within a School Zone/Community Safety Zone.
- Eastwood Collegiate Institute (Weber Street East, City of Kitchener) – within a School Zone/Community Safety Zone.
- Linwood Public School (Manser Road, Township of Wellesley) – within a Community Safety Zone.
- Countryside Christian School (Herrgott Road, Township of Wellesley) – within a School Zone/Community Safety Zone.
- St. David Catholic Secondary School (Weber Street, City of Waterloo) – within a School Zone/Community Safety Zone.

Staff are also proposing to correct an outdated reference to Zeller Drive and an incorrect reference to Hergott Road / Hawkesville Road in Schedule 17.

To align with the Municipal Speed Camera rollout, staff recommend these Traffic and Parking By-Law changes take effect May 26, 2025, ahead of camera installations beginning in Q3 2025.

5. Background:

In October 2024, the Regional Municipality of Waterloo adopted a plan to implement Community Safety Zones near schools on Regional Roads that are to be equipped with a Municipal Speed Camera (Report TSD-TRP-24-010). As a follow-up to this recommendation, 15 more locations have been identified for Community Safety Zone designations across Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge, and Wellesley.

As part of the recommendations in Report TSD-TRP-23-14 (November 2023), staff committed to review the suitability of the current speed limits at School Zones along regional roads that have posted speed limits greater than 40 km/h. Accordingly, in these new School Zones and Community Safety Zones, staff recommend a speed limit reduction from 60 km/h to 40 km/h for Fairway Road, and 50 km/h to 40 km/h for Maple Grove Road and Manser Road.

These recommendations align with broader regional goals to improve traffic safety by pairing Community Safety Zones with appropriate speed limit reductions and School Zone designations. The proposed changes aim to enhance safety and reduce traffic-related risks for vulnerable road users, particularly in School Zones, by encouraging

slower travel speeds in these critical areas.

6. Communication and Engagement with Area Municipalities and the Public

Area Municipalities: Regional staff have shared the recommendations of this report with staff from the area municipalities. Additionally, through the Transportation Coordinating Committee, there have been discussions around the Community Safety Zone and School Zone strategy that led to the recommendations contained in this report.

Public: Recommended changes will be communicated with the community through the Region's broader Community Safety Zone and Municipal Speed Camera communication strategy, including updates to the Safer Roads website and GIS map, GRT bus shelter ads, social media and targeted mailings to nearby residents.

7. Financial Implications:

	Current Year	Future Year(s)
Budget Impact?	Align	Align
Capital Plan Impact?	Align	Align
Tax Rate Increase	N/A	N/A
Impact to Average Household	N/A	N/A

Funding for the implementation of signage to support these by-law changes is included in the approved 2025 Camera-Based Enforcement budget.

8. Conclusion / Next Steps:

Subject to Council approval, staff will proceed with the implementation of Community Safety Zones, School Zones, and speed reductions as outlined in this report. The rollout is expected to be completed in Q3 of 2025, aligning with the continued expansion of the Municipal Speed Camera Program.

Attachments:

Appendix A: Full Set of Proposed Amendments to Traffic & Parking By-Law 16-023, Schedule 23, Part XVIII - School Zones

Appendix B: Full Set of Proposed Amendments to Traffic & Parking By-Law 16-023, Schedule 17, Part XIII, Rates of Speed

Appendix C: Full Set of Proposed Amendments to By-Law 16-023, Schedule 21, Part XVIII, Community Safety Zones

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