



Report to Council

Department: Infrastructure Services

Division: Operations

Date: April 19, 2022

Prepared by: Norm Nussio C.E.T., CRS-I, Manager of Operations, and drainage

Report Number: Operations-2022-03

Subject: Policy for Community Safety Zones

Number of Pages: 6

Recommendation(s)

That Operations-2022-03 entitled, "Policy for Community Safety Zones" prepared by Norman Nussio dated April 4, 2022, be received, and

That Council adopt Infrastructure Services Policy #047 titled, "Community Safety Zone Policy", and

That Council authorize and direct Infrastructure Services to only install Community Safety Zones, or variations thereof, within community where applicable in accordance with the Community Safety Zone Policy.

Purpose

This report and policy has been prepared for infrastructure services to objectively analyze and evaluate the need for a Community Safety Zone upon request.

Background

Community Safety Zones were introduced to Ontario in 1998 under the *Highway Traffic Act*. These are sections of roadway where public safety is of special concern.

Community Safety Zones may include roadways near schools, daycare centres, playgrounds, parks, hospitals, senior citizen residences and roadway sections with identified high collision or road speed violation rates. within a community.

The purpose of a Community Safety Zone is to make motorists aware that they are within a zone where fines have been increased through a special designation under the *Highway Traffic Act*. The approach includes the installation of signs as recommended from the Ontario Traffic Manual - Book 5 that will designate a certain area where the community safety zone begins and ends.

Community Safety Zone signs inform drivers that they are entering a zone that the local municipality has designated as an area where the safety of its children/citizens is paramount. Traffic related offences committed within the zone are subject to increased fines (many set fines are doubled such as speeding and traffic signal related offences).

All zones require a sign with a “Begins” tab indicating the start of the designated area and a sign with an “Ends” tab indicating where the zone concludes as shown in figure 1. Additional signs may be located within the zone and are a legal requirement for zones greater than 1000 metres in length.



Figure 1: Examples of Community Safety Zone Signs

To designate a zone on a municipal road, a municipal by-law is required. These Community Safety Zone designations do not take effect until the required signs are installed. All zones can have designated times and days defining the time period when increased fines are in effect, however, these times/days/months must appear on the signs.

The legislation does not specify limits on the size of a Community Safety Zone, only that the designation applies to parts of a roadway. The designation of the entire length of a particular roadway is not an intended application of the Community Safety Zone concept. Public safety concerns must be evident for the part of the roadway selected as a Community Safety Zone.

The ability of the police to effectively enforce moving offences must be taken into consideration when establishing the appropriate size of a Community Safety Zone. A zone that is too long can result in enforcement not being appropriately targeted and an inefficient allocation of valuable resources, too short and it may not be clear whether the driver has committed a moving offence within the zone. The appropriate number and location(s) of Community Safety Zones within each policing area will be critical to successful enforcement.

Discussion

Traditionally, community safety zones have been set through subjective assessment of the need for a community safety zone. The development a policy for designating community safety zones is to now provide a more objective tool and formal process to guide the Town in establishing and maintaining Community Safety Zones. The goal of setting a community safety zone is to help modify driver behavior and improve safety on municipally selected sections of road where public safety is of special concern. The behavior modification is to be achieved through increased fines for traffic violations committed within community safety zones.

As identified in the proposed policy attached to this report, upon receiving a request for a Community Safety Zone, Infrastructure services will complete an internal review and determine the eligibility of the request. The criteria proposed in the policy is as follows:

- 1) Designation of Community Safety Zones should only be considered in areas of special concern for public safety, including:
 - a) Roadways located adjacent to schools and daycares;
 - b) Roadways located adjacent to senior's residences or facilities;
 - c) Roadways located adjacent to community recreation centres;
 - d) Roadways located adjacent to community playgrounds; and
 - e) Other roadway locations with identified high collision or road speed violation rates.
- 2) Designation of Community Safety Zones should only be considered in locations noted above, where at least one of the following criteria shall apply:
 - a) School, daycare, playground, park, hospital or senior citizen residences is located within the proposed community safety zone; or
 - b) Local police at their discretion determine and/or verify an unusually high road speed violation or high collision rate within the proposed Community Safety Zone location; or
 - c) A minimum of three of the following concerns to public safety are determined to be present in the proposed Community Safety Zone location:
 - i. Posted speed limit causes concern for collision risk;
 - ii. Relatively high 85th percentile over posted speed limit;
 - iii. High annual average daily traffic (AADT) volumes (greater than 2,000 vehicles per day);
 - iv. Absence or limitations of sidewalks causes risks for pedestrians;
 - v. Relatively high truck volumes; and
 - vi. Relatively high number of intersection or accesses causes concern for increased collision risk;
 - vii. A high number of crashes per year on the proposed segment of road (greater than 1:900 [crashes per year: AADT])

Financial Impact

There will be no financial impact at this time. If a request is brought forward and is successful in implementing a Community Safety Zone there will be a cost for the signage and installation.

Consultations

Kevin Girard, Director of Infrastructure Services

Rob Auger, Town Solicitor and Clerk

Link to Strategic Priorities

- ☒ Manage, invest and plan for sustainable municipal infrastructure which meets current and future needs of the municipality and its citizens.
- ☐ Create a safe, friendly and inclusive community which encourages healthy, active living for people of all ages and abilities.
- ☐ Provide a fiscal stewardship and value for tax dollars to ensure long-term financial health to the municipality.
- ☐ Manage responsible and viable growth while preserving and enhancing the unique rural and small town character of the community.
- ☐ Improve the experiences of individuals, as both citizens and customers, in their interactions with the Town of Essex.
- ☐ Improve the Town's capacity to meet the ongoing and future service needs of its citizens while ensuring the corporation is resilient in the face of unanticipated changes or disruptions.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Community Safety Zones - Operations-2022-03.docx
Attachments:	- Establishing Community Safety Zones Policy.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Apr 12, 2022

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Girard', with a large loop at the end.

Kevin Girard, Director, Infrastructure Services - Apr 12, 2022 - 3:31 PM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Sweet', with a stylized 'S' and 'W'.

Doug Sweet, Chief Administrative Officer - Apr 12, 2022 - 4:49 PM