

## **1.0 POLICY STATEMENT**

The Village of Merrickville-Wolford is committed to promoting road safety. It is understood by municipal Staff that safe roads help promote safe and healthy communities. The purpose of this policy is to establish a procedure for speeding complaints brought forward by residents of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford. This policy outlines the steps to be taken upon receipt of a speeding complaint on a municipal road. It will help ensure that all speeding complaints are assessed, responded, and reported on with equal consideration and in a timely and effective manner. By following a systematic approach to speeding complaints, the Village can ensure that speeding issues are properly identified and effectively mitigated to ensure the safety of residents and road users.

## **2.0 PURPOSE**

When the Village receives requests to change posted speed limits on municipal roads or a speeding complaint, this policy provides guidance to staff on the process to review and determine if the existing speed limit is appropriate or if there is justification for a change or if there is a speeding issue present. When requests regarding speed limits are received by municipal staff, the guidelines outlined in this document will be followed and make the appropriate recommendations. Staff should review the request, gather any required information, and then evaluate the request in accordance with the Speed Policy in order to communicate the results.

## **2.0 DEFINITIONS**

### **Speed Limit**

The maximum rate of speed that a motor vehicle can be driven on a road or portion of a road in accordance with the Highway Traffic Act (HTA).

### **Design Speed**

The speed at which the geometric features of the roadway are acceptable to vehicle travel. The design speed is typically greater than the posted speed by 10km/hr.

### **85th Percentile**

The speed at or below which 85% of all vehicles are observed to travel under free-flowing conditions.

### **Statutory speed**

The speed limit on a roadway with no posted signs, according to the Highway Traffic Act (HTA):

- Urban Areas: 50 km/hr in urban areas, and,
- Rural Areas: 80 km/h.

### **3.0 APPLICATION**

3.1 This policy applies to;

3.1.1 Speeding complaints on municipal roads owned and operated by the Village of Merrickville-Wolford.

3.2 This policy does not apply to;

3.2.1 Speeding complaints pertaining to specific drivers and/or vehicles.

3.2.2 Speeding complaints on County Roads or Provincial Highways

### **4.0 EXISTING POLICY REGARDING SPEED LIMITS**

Unless posted otherwise, the statutory limits of the Highway Traffic Act (HTA) shall apply:

- 50 km/hr for urban areas, and
- 80 km/hr for rural areas.

Urban areas have been posted to 40km/hr by municipal bylaw, complete with gateway signage include:

- The Village of Merrickville-Wolford,
- Jasper, and
- Easton's Corners.

All other areas of the municipality are considered Rural and have a speed limit of 80 km/hr, unless posted otherwise. Individual roadways in the Rural area that have posted reductions include:

- Aaron Merrick Drive (50km/hr)
- Charles Holden Ave (50km/hr)
- Collar Hill Road (50km/hr)
- Colonel By Way (50km/hr)
- Corktown Road (50km/hr)
- HF McLean Road (50km/hr)
- Montague Road (50 km/hr)
- Scotch Line Road (50km/hr)

For greater clarity, please refer to Maps 1-4 depicting speed limits for municipal roads in Merrickville-Wolford. Roads have been colour coded to illustrate the respective speed limits.

## **Initial Speeding Complaint**

### **ENFORCEMENT BASED**

#### **1. RECEIPT OF INITIAL SPEEDING COMPLAINT**

All speeding complaints received by the Village will be reported to the Department of Public Works in writing. The following information is required to process the complaint:

- Name, address and contact information of complainant
- Date and time of received complaint
- Location of perceived speeding issue
- Approximate frequency of perceived speeding incidents as determined by complainant (i.e. daily occurrence, only weekends, summer months)

#### **2. TRAFFIC MONITORING, REPORTING, AND ANALYSIS**

Upon receipt of a complaint from a resident, the Department of Public Works shall schedule a time to monitor the road with a discreet monitoring device. The discreet monitoring device must be installed by a trained staff member. The road shall be monitored for a minimum of 7 days. Upon completion of the monitoring program, the following information shall be collected and recorded;

- Location of radar recorder (longitude, latitude; or specific detailed location)
- Beginning and end date of monitoring program
- Traffic counts, speeds, and calculation of 85<sup>th</sup> percentile

The reported 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed will be reviewed against the location of the perceived speeding issue, and the current posted speed limit for that road segment. The existing “Speed Limit Guideline Spreadsheet” for that road will be reviewed for accuracy and completeness, with staff updating the fields and undertaking a risk assessment.

If the monitoring and Speed Limit Guide Spreadsheet are in agreement, a speeding concern has not been identified.

If the monitoring and Speed Limit Guide Spreadsheet results are not in agreement, a potential speeding concern has been identified. The posted speed limit may need to be changed (increased or decreased), or other mitigation measures implemented.

### **3. CLOSURE OF COMPLAINT AND COMMUNICATIONS**

The results of the monitoring program will determine the next steps to be taken. Scenario 1 and 2 below define the possible outcomes of the monitoring program.

#### Scenario 1 – Speeding Concern Not Identified:

If a speeding concern is not identified as defined in the policy, no further action will be taken.

#### Scenario 2 – Speeding Concern Identified:

Municipal staff will also prepare a recommendation regarding if the posted speed limit is warranted to be changed using the Canadian Guidelines for Establishing Posted Speed Limits (2009) and Speed Management Guide (2016). The result of the review may be to increase or decrease the posted speed limit.

If a speeding concern is identified all reports shall be sent to the Chair of the Police Services Board who is responsible for forwarding to the O.P.P. for review and enforcement-based considerations.

Under both scenarios, the complainant will be notified and offered copies of the reports generated. The notification shall contain a summary of the measures taken and the decisions that have been made as a result of the complaint. The complaint is now considered closed.

The OPP will receive copies of all data generated.