

4. RIVER ROAD SPEED REDUCTION FROM LOWEN DRIVE TO 110M SOUTH OF TEWSLEY DRIVE

RÉDUCTION DE LA VITESSE SUR LE CHEMIN RIVER, DE LA PROMENADE LOWEN JUSQU'À 110 M AU SUD DE LA PROMENADE TEWSLEY

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve that the speed limit along River Road between Lowen Drive and 110m south of Tewsley Drive be reduced from 70 km/h to 60 km/h.

RECOMMANDATION DU COMITÉ

Que le Conseil approuve que la limite de vitesse sur le chemin River, entre la promenade Lowen et un point situé à 110 m au sud de la promenade Tewsley, soit réduite de 70 km/h à 60 km/h.

DOCUMENTATION / DOCUMENTATION

1. Councillor Michael Qaqish and Councillor Diane Deans, report dated 25 May 2017 (ACS2017-CCS-TRC-0008)

Conseiller Michael Qaqish et Conseillère Diane Deans, daté le 25 mai 2017 (ACS2017-CCS-TRC-0008)

2. Extract of draft Minutes 25, Transportation Committee, 7 June 2017.

Extrait de l'ébauche du procès-verbal 25, Comité des transports, le 7 juin 2017.

**Report to
Rapport au:**

**Transportation Committee
Comité des transports
7 June 2017 / 7 juin 2017**

**and Council
et au Conseil
14 June 2017 / 14 juin 2017**

**Submitted on May 25, 2017
Soumis le 25 mai 2017**

**Submitted by
Soumis par:
Councillor / Conseiller Michael Qaqish and Councillor / Conseillère Diane Deans**

**Contact Person
Personne ressource:
Councillor / Conseiller Michael Qaqish
613-580-2751, Michael.Qaqish@ottawa.ca
and**

**Councillor / Conseillère Diane Deans
613-580-2480, Diane.Deans@ottawa.ca**

**Ward: GLOUCESTER-SOUTH NEPEAN File Number: ACS2017-CCS-TRC-0008
(22) / GLOUCESTER-NEPEAN
SUD (22) AND GLOUCESTER
SOUTHGATE**

**SUBJECT: River Road Speed Reduction from Lowen Drive to 110m south of
Tewsley Drive**

OBJET: Réduction de la vitesse sur le chemin River, de la promenade Lowen jusqu'à 110 m au sud de la promenade Tewsley

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Transportation Committee recommend to Council that the speed limit along River Road between Lowen Drive and 110m south of Tewsley Drive be reduced from 70 km/h to 60 km/h.

RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT

Que le Comité des transports recommande au Conseil de faire passer la limite de vitesse sur le chemin River, entre la promenade Lowen et un point situé 110 m au sud de la promenade Tewsley, de 70 km/h à 60 km/h.

BACKGROUND

In July 2014, the Vimy Memorial Bridge opened to vehicular traffic providing a link across the Rideau River, connecting Strandherd Drive in Barrhaven to Earl Armstrong Road in Riverside South. Since the opening of the bridge, there has been an evident increase in traffic volume and a continued concern with traffic speeds along River Road.

River Road has a number of homes fronting onto the street and also provides access to several residential communities including Honey Gables and Cedardale. Residents living in the area have expressed their growing concern with the high speeds along River Road and the potential safety risk it poses. With new developments in Riverside South and the surrounding area, the community is concerned that these issues will be further exacerbated. As such, they have requested to reduce the speed limit on River Road to enhance roadway safety in the area.

To date measures have already been taken to reduce volume and speed along River Rd. Directional signage has been installed encouraging residents to take Earl Armstrong Road directly to Limebank Road as an alternative to River Road. The traffic department has also made signal time adjustments at the intersection of Earl Armstrong Road and River Road, reducing the time on the left turn light to influence the amount of vehicles that make it through each cycle. A speed board has been placed going north on River Road in front of Claudette Cain Park and after River Road was paved in 2015

a pavement marking scheme was put in place to reduce the lane size and help slow traffic.

DISCUSSION

River Road functions as an “arterial” road, running north-south providing a connection between Earl Armstrong Road/Strandherd Drive and Limebank Road. The surrounding land use consists of some residential properties fronting onto River Road. River Road is constructed to a two-lane rural cross-section from approximately 180m north of Earl Armstrong to Limebank Road. The current speed limit on River Road varies from 60km/h from Earl Armstrong to 110m south of Tewsley where it increases to 70km/h to Lowen Drive. From Lowen Drive to approximately 150m south of Balmoral Drive, the speed limit is 80km/h and then transitions to 60km/h from 150m south of Balmoral Drive to Limebank Road. There are no sidewalks provided along River Road but a paved shoulder was added in 2016 between 180m north of Earl Armstrong to Leitrim Road. From Leitrim Road to Limebank Road, the shoulder is mainly gravel with some sections that are paved.

The Speed Zoning Policy states that the speed limit along an arterial street should be based on the actual 85th percentile speed (i.e. the speed at or below which 85% of all the vehicles travel at) of the free-flowing traffic on the street. The most recent speed survey conducted along River Road between Honey Gables Drive and Ryeburn Drive indicated an 85th percentile operating speed of 87 km/h. Further details on Transportation Services’ staff review are available in Document 1 - May 2017 River Road Speed Zone Review.

RURAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no rural implications associated with this report or its recommendations.

CONSULTATION

Councillor Qaqish and Councillor Deans held a public consultation at the Rideauview Community Centre in June of 2015. The meeting was supported by both Police and Traffic staff. At the meeting, residents in both wards expressed concern with high speeds on River Road and requested a speed limit reduction. Councillors have also been working closely with the group “Take Back River Rd” and met with this group

regularly between 2015 -2017. This group has also identified speeding as a major concern and support a speed limit reduction.

Transportation Services Comment:

Industry best practices support that it is important to maintain consistent, uniform speed limits on any roadway to provide all users including pedestrians, cyclists, adjacent residents and motorists with a correct representation of the actual speed of traffic on that roadway. The provision of speed limits considers the roadway function and its design. Implementing a speed limit that does not align with these considerations may result in enforcement difficulties and increases in traffic hazard. Lowering the speed limits on City streets without consideration of the physical configuration of the road will have minimal impact on driver behaviour. In such cases where a posted speed limit is below operating speeds, the majority of motorists will continue to drive at speeds they feel are reasonable and prudent unless continual police enforcement is present. The visual and physical cues a driver uses to determine the appropriate travel speed should be consistent with the posted speed limit.

Posting a 60 km/h speed limit on a roadway where the operating speed is much greater, such as in the case of River Road, may increase the risk of collision. Some drivers will choose to comply with the 60 km/h speed limit while others will continue to drive the higher speed they feel comfortable travelling at. This increase in the difference in operating speeds between individual vehicles may increase the risk of collision as the potential for interactions or conflicts between vehicles will increase.

The Transportation Services Department does not expect the roadway's operating speed to be significantly reduced as a result of the implementation of 60 km/h speed limit signs unless considerable police enforcement occurs on an on-going basis.

Upon Council approval of the reports recommendation, the Transportation Services Department will implement the new 60 km/h speed limit as directed. Signs will be installed along River Road between Lowen Drive and 110m south of Tewsley Drive to implement the change in speed limit. The cost of the speed limit sign installation can be accommodated within the existing Traffic Services operating budget and will be approximately \$1,600.00.

COMMENTS BY THE WARD COUNCILLOR(S)

Councillor M. Qaqish

I am in support of a speed reduction in this particular stretch of River road from Lowen Drive to 110m South of Tewsley Drive due to the reasons and context outlined in this report.

Councillor D. Deans

The reduction of the speed on sections of River Road from 70KM/HR to 60KM/HR is a positive step in the right direction and I support this proposal. That being said, I would argue that it does not go far enough to protect our residential communities. As the representative for the neighbourhood of Cedardale, I would have liked to see the speeds further reduced on River Road between Lowen Drive and Balmoral Drive. However, this initiative was not supported by the Councillor for Gloucester-South Nepean. With that said, I will continue to work with the community to ensure that the safety of our residents continues to be a priority.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE(S) COMMENTS

This has not been considered by Advisory Committees.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal impediments to approving the recommendation in this report.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk management implications associated with this report or its recommendations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report. The estimated cost can be funded within the existing Traffic Services budget.

ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS

There are no impacts to accessibility associated with this report or its recommendations.

TERM OF COUNCIL PRIORITIES

The recommendation of this report aligns to the 2015-2018 Strategic Priority – Transportation and Mobility, specifically Strategic Objective TM4 – Improve safety for all road users. Furthermore, the recommendation of this report also aligns to the 2015-2018 Strategic Priority – Residents, specifically Strategic Objective C1 – Contribute to the improvement of my quality of life.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION *(Held on file with the City Clerk)*

Document 1 - May 2017 River Road Speed Zone Review

DISPOSITION

The Transportation Services Department will implement a new 60 km/h speed limit in existing signed 70 km/h speed zones along River Road between Lowen Drive and 110m south of Tewsley Drive upon Council approval of the report's recommendation by replacing the necessary signage.