

POLICY MANUAL	Policy No. 103-2024
Township of North Dundas	Effective Date: April 11, 2024
Subject: Speed Limit Reduction	Page 1 of 2

Purpose:

This policy establishes the approach to processing requests for speed limit reductions on specific sections of the Township of North Dundas roads

Background:

From time to time, the Township receives requests from residents within the Township to reduce a posted speed limit. The assumption is that when a lower speed limit is posted, drivers will automatically reduce speed. All research performed to date on this subject indicates that this is not true. It is estimated that most users of Township roads are familiar with the geometry of the roads they are traveling.

The speed of vehicles on a roadway is largely dependent on the physical characteristics of the road and its surroundings. For example, drivers tend to increase their speed on long, straight and open stretches of road. It has been shown that reducing speed limits below what is warranted will lead to accidents as the crash potential is increased between the drivers obeying the speed limit and the drivers who are speeding because they feel the limit is unreasonable.

Most Township roads are designed with sight lines and curves that are at the posted speed plus 0 km/h. It is doubtful that the signage would encourage drivers to slow down without further visual clues such as a "built-up" area, as defined within the *Highway Traffic Act*.

Policy:

When the Township receives a written, signed request for a speed limit reduction, staff will consider traffic engineering principles coupled with the roadside environment.

Speed limit changes will be recommended in the following circumstances:

1. The Speed Reduction Request Form (Schedule "A") must be filled out and signed by the requesting resident and returned to the Director of Transportation.
2. The area meets the definition of a "built-up" area (*Highway Traffic Act*).

3. The change is recommended by the Transportation Association of Ontario (TAC) Speed Guidelines – usually caused by poor road geometry or other issues which would make the section “accident-prone”.
4. The location is an area where a normal driver would perceive the roadside as one where a reduced speed is appropriate.

The Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) Speed Guidelines will determine if a section of the Township Road would justify a speed limit decrease. The analysis would include the following elements:

- Horizontal alignment (‘straightness’ of the road).
- Vertical alignment (hills).
- Road cross-section (width).
- Roadside hazards.
- Pedestrian and cyclist exposure; and
- Number of Entrances.

Staff recognize the importance of vehicular and pedestrian safety. In this context, the Township will investigate the following measures to help promote safety.

1. Tree trimming to increase visibility if needed.
2. Consider additional signage or road markings as per Ontario Traffic Manuals.
3. Use social media to improve hazard awareness.
4. Use temporary radar signs. Temporary radar signs are installed for short durations at various locations on Township Roads. The sign records speed measurements which can be downloaded and analyzed.



SCHEDULE "A"

Speed Reduction Request Form Policy No. 103-2024

Citizen Representative Information

Name: _____ Street Address: _____
Telephone: _____ Email: _____
Signature: _____ Date: _____

The citizen representative is requesting that the Township of North Dundas consider the reduction in speed along the following roads:

_____ between _____ and _____
_____ between _____ and _____
_____ between _____ and _____

Select the concerns that apply and provide a brief description of the concerns

- Speeding Traffic Volumes Cut-through Traffic
 Crashes Pedestrian Safety Bicycle Safety
 Large Trucks Others

Brief Description of Concerns:

In order for this request form to be reviewed, the name and signature of the requesting resident is required. Any signatures without valid addresses will be voided.

Name	Street Address	Signature

Township of North Dundas
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