

Gateway Speed Limits Pilot Project Update

Presented To:	Operations Committee
Meeting Date:	June 19, 2023
Type:	Managers' Reports
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Recommended by:	General Manager of Growth and Infrastructure

Report Summary

This report provides a recommendation regarding next steps for the Gateway Speed Limits Pilot Project.

Resolution

THAT the City of Greater Sudbury reduces the speed limit to 40 km/h in the areas listed in Appendix 1 and reduces the speed limit to 30 km/h for school zones listed in Appendix 2 as outlined in the report entitled “Gateway Speed Limits Pilot Project Update” from the General Manager of Growth and Infrastructure, presented at the Operations Committee meeting on June 19, 2023;

AND THAT the City of Greater Sudbury directs staff to prepare a by-law to amend Traffic and Parking Bylaw 2010-1 in the City of Greater Sudbury to implement the recommended changes.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Community Energy & Emissions Plan (CEEP)

This report refers to the Create a Healthier Community strategic initiatives as identified in the Strategic Plan and Goal 8: Achieve 35% active mobility transportation mode share by 2050 in the Community Energy and Emissions Plan.

Financial Implications

Recommendations of this report may be carried out within the existing approved operating budget and staffing resources.

Background

At the September 2019, Operations Committee meeting, Transportation and Innovation Support staff brought a report which outlined a change in the Highway Traffic Act (HTA) to allow municipalities to post a lower speed limit for large sections of the municipality using Gateway Speed Limit signs. At the meeting resolution OP2019-18 was passed. This resolution stated:

That the City of Greater Sudbury directs staff to prepare a report identifying the estimated cost and scope of a pilot study for the implementation of gateway speed limits in isolated areas within each ward and report back to committee in Q1 of 2020.

In response to resolution OP2019-18, Transportation and Innovation staff brought a report to the May 2022 Operations Committee Meeting, outlining an estimate of cost and scope for a pilot project to implement a Gateway Speed Area in each ward in the city. The implementation costs to install the signs required for the pilot project are estimated at \$72,000 with an increase to the annual sign maintenance budget of \$7,200. Based on the report resolution OP2022-14 was passed. The resolution stated:

THAT the City of Greater Sudbury directs staff to prepare a business case for consideration during the 2023 Budget process to fund the Gateway Speed Limit pilot project, as outlined in the report entitled "Gateway Speed Limits in Residential Areas", from the General Manager of Growth and Infrastructure, as presented at the Operations Committee meeting on May 16, 2022;

AND FURTHER THAT an option be presented in the business case that updates the 2019 estimates to provide the cost to introduce Gateway Speed Limits across the Municipality;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of Greater Sudbury directs staff to proceed with a pilot project in 2022, in 1 area to be identified by staff which differs from those identified in the report so they can capture as many of the different factors (school zone, permanent traffic calming and temporary flexible bollards) as possible, to be funded from the existing operating budget;

AND THAT the City of Greater Sudbury directs staff to prepare a by-law to amend the Traffic and Parking By-law 2010-1 in the City of Greater Sudbury to implement the Gateway Speed Limit pilot project.

In response to resolution OP2022-14 staff completed a business case entitled "Implement Gateway Speed Limits in Residential Areas" that outlined the costs and scope for two options, one to install signs in one area for each ward and the second was to install signs across the entire city. That business case was submitted for the 2023 Budget process and the option to install signs in one area for each ward was passed during budget deliberations.

In addition to the business case, staff selected an area for a pilot project in 2022. The area is in Ward 8 as shown in Figure 1 below and aligns with the different factors identified in the resolution.

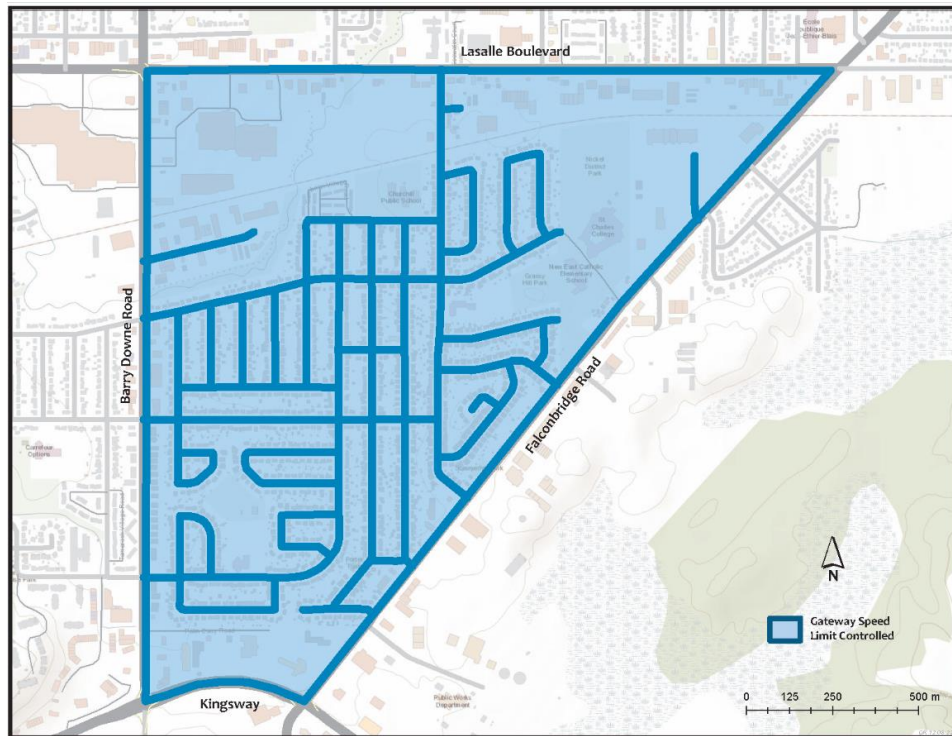


Figure 1: Ward 8 Pilot Project Area

In the fall of 2022, staff conducted studies in the area before the signs were installed and then completed follow up studies.

Location	Pre-Sign Installation 85 th Percentile Speed (KM/H)	Post Sign Installation 85 th Percentile Speed (KM/H)	Difference (KM/H)
Auger Avenue	54	56	+2
Churchill Avenue	58	53	-5
Gemmell Street	56	53	-3
Hawthorne Avenue *	53	56	+3
Fielding Street **	N/A	50	N/A

* Hawthorne Avenue location has temporary traffic calming installed.

** Fielding Street is in a school zone where Churchill Public School is located.

As noted in previous studies completed by staff, only changing the speed limit sign has limited impact on operating speeds. Staff have found that additional measures are required to have a lasting impact on operating speeds. These measures could include the Automated Speed Enforcement program, traffic calming or an expanded flexible bollard traffic calming program. Staff will continue to monitor this area along with the other locations.

Next Steps

To move forward and implement the expanded pilot project, staff has worked with each Ward Councillor to finalize the location of the Gateway Speed Limits in each ward.

The next step is to pass the required by-laws amendments to include the gateway speed limit areas in the Traffic and Parking By-law. Once those bylaws have been passed the signs can be installed. Based on these timelines all signs are scheduled to be installed by the middle of July. Appendices 1 and 2 show the updates that are required.

In the meantime, staff have been preparing work orders to have the signs installed and ensure any locates that are required can be completed in a timely manner. In addition, staff have also started completing the pre traffic studies in each ward before the signs are installed.

Once the signs are installed staff will schedule traffic studies to determine what effect the signs have had on vehicle speeds. This will be conducted in the spring of 2024, when the necessary resources will be available to complete the work. A review of the pilot project will be brought to Operations Committee in Q3 of 2024.

Resources Cited

City of Greater Sudbury, Gateway Speed Limits in Residential Areas 2019,

Accessed online: <https://pubgreatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?documentid=2245>

City of Greater Sudbury, Gateway Speed Limits in Residential Areas 2022,

Accessed online: <https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=47203>