

M.R. 15 Speed Limit Review

Presented To:	Operations Committee
Meeting Date:	October 15, 2025
Type:	Managers' Reports
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Recommended by:	General Manager of Community Infrastructure

Report Summary

This report provides a recommendation regarding the posted speed limits along M.R. 15 from M.R. 35 to M.R. 80.

Resolution

THAT the City of Greater Sudbury increases the speed limit on M.R. 15 to 70 km/h from M.R. 35 to Belisle Drive, as outlined in the report entitled "M.R. 15 Speed Limit Review.", from the General Manager of Community Infrastructure, presented at the Operations Committee on October 15, 2025;

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

Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Climate Action Plans

This report refers to operational matters.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Background

Staff have received requests from area residents through their ward councillor to review the speed limits along the M.R. 15 corridor between Chelmsford and Val Caron. The concern raised was that the current speed limit feels too low for the existing conditions of the roadway. This has led to frustration amongst motorists who commute using the roadway as well as an increase in traffic along the St. Laurent Street and Valleyview Road as motorists try to find alternate time saving routes. This includes heavy truck traffic

accessing the Valley East Industrial Park along Belisle Drive.

M.R. 15 is a secondary arterial roadway comprised of a rural 2-lane cross section between M.R. 35 and Belisle Drive and a 5-lane urban cross section roadway between Belisle Drive and M.R. 80, including a continuous 2-way centre turn lane. M.R. 15 is also a designated truck route. St. Laurent Street and Valleyview Road are both 2-lane rural cross section collector roadways and are not designated truck routes.

Currently the posted speed limit along M.R. 15 and St. Laurent Street is 60 km/h. Valleyview Road is posted at 60 km/h except for a portion from Fournier Drive to M.R. 80 which is posted at 40 km/h due to the presence of two schools along the roadway.

Prior to 2007, M.R. 15 was posted at 80 km/h from M.R. 35 to 1.8 km west of Martin Road, at which time a council resolution lowered the speed limit to 60 km/h. This reduction was completed without the benefit of being supported by traffic engineering review.

Staff have conducted speed studies along the corridor and the results show the 85th percentile speed from M.R. 35 to Belisle Drive is approximately 80 km/h, demonstrating that this prior speed reduction was not effective in reducing the operating speeds on the roadway. Staff also conducted speed studies along M.R. 15 from Belisle Drive to M.R. 80 and the 85th percentile speed is 70 km/h. This section of road has been subject to Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) in prior months and is scheduled to have ASE return in the next round of deployments.

Analysis

In 2010 City Council adopted the use of the Canadian Guidelines for Establishing Posted Speed Limits, published by the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC), for evaluating posted speeds on arterial and major collector roadways. These guidelines assess appropriate posted speed limits based primarily on the classification, function, and physical characteristics of a roadway.

The length of M.R. 15 included in this review is approximately 17.6 km. Given the length of this corridor, the roadside characteristics which are included and reviewed in the TAC guidelines, vary along the length of the corridor. To determine the most appropriate posted speed, which best suits any one segment of roadway, staff have broken the corridor into five segments for analysis. Table 1 below is provided to show these segments and the recommended posted speed limit determined from the guidelines.

Table 1: Recommended Posted Speed Limits – M.R. 15

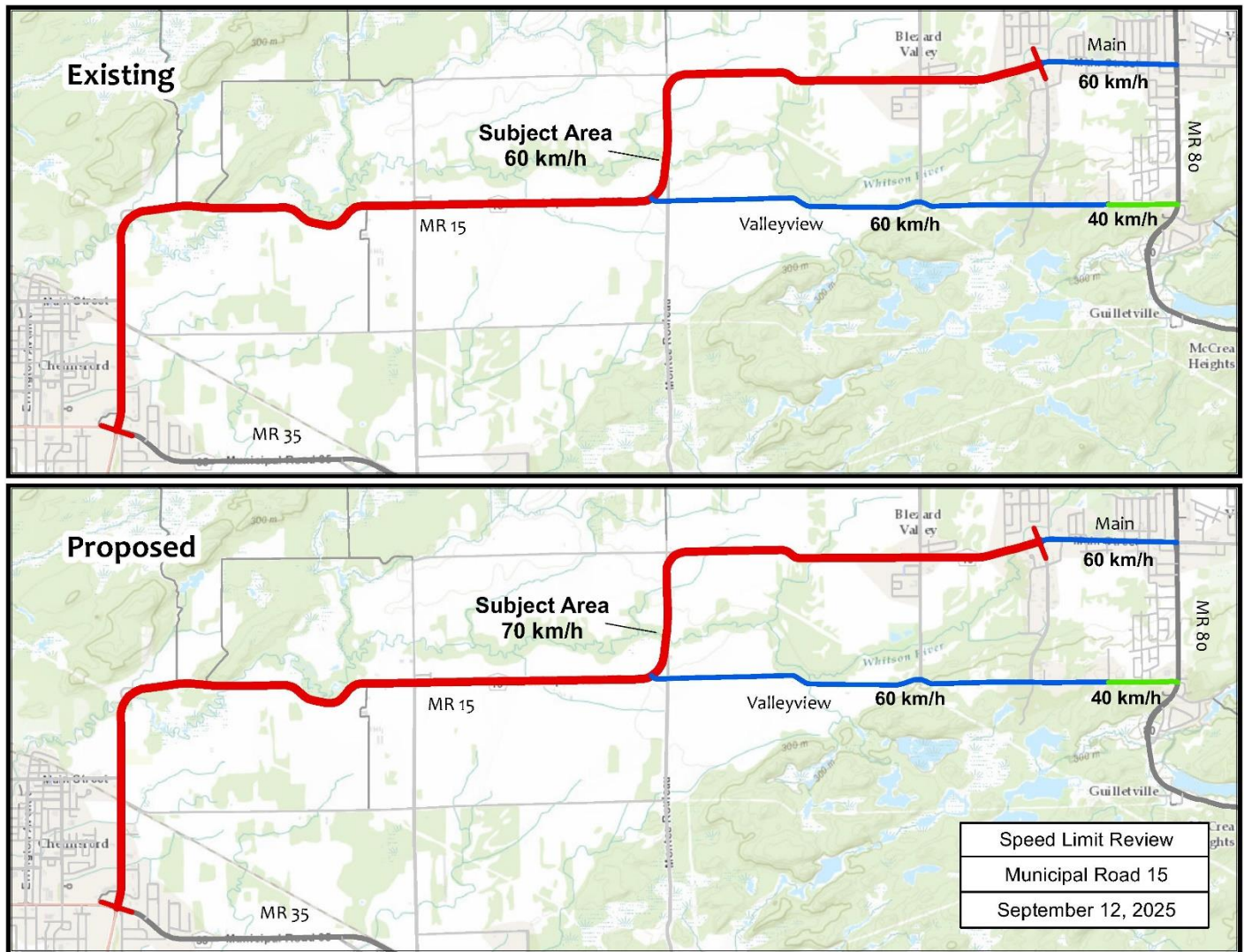
Segment	Recommended Posted Speed Limit
M.R. 35 to M.R. 14 (Main Street, Chelmsford)	70 km/h
M.R. 14 (Main Street, Chelmsford) to Montee Principale	70 km/h
Montee Principale to 1.8 km West of Martin Road	70 km/h
1.8 km West of Martin Road to Belisle Drive	70 km/h
Belisle Drive to M.R. 80	60 km/h

In addition, the TAC speed limit guidelines were also applied to St. Laurent Street and Valleyview Road, the resulting recommended posted speed limits are shown below in Table 2.

Table 2: Recommended Posted Speed Limits – St. Laurent Street and Valley View Road

Segment	Recommended Posted Speed Limit
St. Laurent Street – M.R. 15 to Valleyview Road	60 km/h
Valleyview Road – St. Laurent Street to Fournier Drive	60 km/h

The TAC guidelines for all the road segments evaluated are included in Appendix A.



Recommendations

The City of Greater Sudbury policy is to utilize the TAC speed limit guidelines worksheet when setting posted speed limits. The resulting speed limits from these guidelines more closely match the current operating speeds of this roadway. Setting the posted speed limit to closely match the operating speed of the roadway when the safety considerations of the roadway allow is seen as a best practice to reduce driver frustration and limit higher risk behavior, such as motorists taking risks in passing slower moving vehicles.

In the specific case of M.R. 15, increasing the posted speed limit will also help to keep both vehicle and heavy truck traffic on M.R. 15 and result in less vehicles diverting onto St. Laurent Street and Valleyview Road.

Staff recommend increasing the speed limit from 60 km/h to 70 km/h on M.R. 15 from M.R. 35 to Belisle

Drive. Staff also recommend the existing 60 km/h speed limit remain on M.R. 15 from Belisle Drive to M.R. 80 and on St. Laurent Street and Valleyview Road.

Resources Cited

Maximum Road Speed Limits, City of Greater Sudbury, Accessed Online: <https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=36295>