



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Speed Limit Regulation on Sewells Road – From Steeles Avenue East to Old Finch Avenue (south intersection)

Date:	May 21, 2010
To:	Scarborough Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services, Scarborough District
Wards:	Ward 42 - Scarborough Rouge River
Reference Number:	P:\2010\Cluster B\TRA\Scarborough\sc1066 D10-3774274, D09-3464849 Sewells Road - speed regulations

SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter for which the Community Council has delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision.

This report on Sewells Road proposes a reduction of the speed limit to 40 km/h along the northerly portion (from Steeles Avenue East to 625 metres south) and a proposed 50 km/h speed limit along the remaining southerly portion of Sewells Road to Old Finch Avenue. These proposed new speed limits are recommended due to unique roadway characteristics.

Scarborough Community Council's approval of the 40 km/h and 50 km/h speed limit amendments will better define the speed limits and should enhance roadway operation and safety along the subject roadway.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services, Scarborough District staff recommends that Scarborough Community Council recommend that City Council:

1. Rescind the speed limit regulations, as identified in Appendix 1 of this report.
2. Enact the speed regulations, as identified in Appendix 2 of this report.
3. Pass or amend the appropriate by-law(s) accordingly.

Financial Impact

The financial cost of installing speed limit signage as well as speed signs is approximately \$2,500.00. Funding for the signs is available in the Transportation Services 2010 Operating Budget, within Cost Centre TP0397.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Further to a staff request concerning vehicles speeds on Sewells Road, we reviewed Sewells Road from Steeles Avenue East to Old Finch Avenue for the suitability of a lowered speed limit.

A review of Sewells Road was conducted and to enhance safety for all roadway users, we are recommending lowering the speed limits to 40 km/h and 50 km/h, due to Sewells Road's unique roadway characteristics. These characteristics include a narrow road with gravel shoulders, two locations that the roadway narrows to only a shared single lane, lack of sidewalks and numerous pedestrians crossing between parked vehicles on both sides of the road in the area of Standard Auto Wreckers.

COMMENTS

Several characteristics describing the subject portion of Sewells Road include:

- The land use on Sewells Road is mix of industrial at the north end in the area of Standard Auto Wreckers and parkland / agricultural to the south.
- Sewells Road is a two-lane north/south local road from Steeles Avenue East to the north intersection of Old Finch Avenue and also collector road between the north and south intersections of Old Finch Avenue.
- Sewells Road narrows to a shared single northbound / southbound lane at the bridge over the Rouge River and also at the C.P.R. railway vehicle overpass.
- The area is located in Rouge Neighbourhood.
- Sewells Road north of Old Finch Avenue to the first set of railway tracks, at the C.P.R. line, has an unsigned 50 km/h speed limit. The remaining portion of Sewells Road from the C.P.R. line north to Steeles Avenue East is by-lawed with a 60 Km/h speed limit.

The proposed posting of 40 km/h and 50 km/h speed limit signs, should provide a safer roadway environment for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians, particularly in the area of the vehicles parked near the auto wreckers and also in the two locations where the road narrows to a shared single northbound / southbound shared lane.

In summary, the amended speed limit regulations should enhance roadway operations on Sewells Road.

CONTACT

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ATTACHMENTS

1. Appendix 1 – By-law Amendments (rescind)
2. Appendix 2 – By-law Amendments (enact)
3. Location Plan (Proposed 40 km/h and 50 km/h Speed Limit – On Sewells Road from Steeles Avenue East to Old Finch Avenue)

Appendix 1

“Maximum Rate of Speed – 60 Kilometres Per hour” Regulation to be Rescinded

(In Column 1) Highway	(In Column 2) From	To
Sewells Road	A point 690.0 metres north of Finch Avenue (north intersection)	Steeles Avenue

Appendix 2

“Maximum Rate of Speed – 40 Kilometres Per hour” Regulation to be Enacted

(In Column 1) Highway	(In Column 2) From	To
Sewells Road	Steeles Avenue East	A point 625 metres south of Steeles Avenue East