

## REPORT

### Council

**Meeting Date: January 27, 2025**

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**FROM:** Transportation and Engineering Department

**DATE:** January 14, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Heritage Way Neighbourhood 40km/h Area Speed Limit Review

**LOCATION:** Heritage Way Neighbourhood

**WARD:** Ward 4

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#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the 40km/h Neighbourhood Speed Limit pilot in the Heritage Way Neighbourhood be concluded and the speed limits within the neighbourhood be maintained as currently posted.

#### **KEY FACTS:**

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- The Heritage Way Neighbourhood was designated as a 40km/h Area pilot project following the Council directions at its meeting on October 22, 2019.
- Speed data collected in Heritage Way Neighbourhood, presented to Council on September 18, 2023, indicated there was a negligible effect on operating speeds as a result of the speed limit change.
- Collision data within Heritage Way neighbourhood indicates a reduction in collisions since the implementation of the 40km/h Area speed limit.
- On July 9, 2024, Council directed staff to conduct public consultation within the Heritage Way neighbourhood for reinstating the speed limit to 50km/h within the Heritage Way neighbourhood (excluding 40km/h school zones on Heritage Way).
- Public consultation, via a survey mailed to all households within the Heritage Way neighbourhood, was conducted in November 2024.
- Survey results indicate that 54% of respondents are in favour of keeping 40km/h Area speed limits.
- Staff recommend maintaining the current 40 km/h posted speed in the Heritage Way Neighbourhood and not revert back to a 50km/h speed limit.

**BACKGROUND:**

In October 2019, Council directed staff to implement 40km/h Area speed limit pilot in Heritage Way Neighbourhood, as permitted by the *Highway Traffic Act*. This neighbourhood is bounded by Upper Middle Rd, Third Line, North Service Rd, and Fourteen Mile Creek. Refer to *Appendix A* of this report for a map of the area. A second pilot area was also introduced in West River Neighbourhood.

Following the implementation of the 40km/h Area pilots, staff conducted speed studies and reported back to Council in [January 2021](#). The results showed a marginal increase in operating speed compared to operating speed before implementing the pilot in the Heritage Way neighbourhood. This indicated ineffectiveness of 40km/h signage to slow the traffic down.

The January 2021 report recommended that 40km/h speed limits be retained in these two pilot study areas and that complementary measures be investigated. This report also recommended that future consideration of neighbourhood 40 km/h zones be limited to neighbourhoods where the road network can limit non-resident traffic, and that they be considered in conjunction with complimentary measures. The staff recommendation regarding future neighbourhood 40 km/h zones was not adopted and Council directed staff to report back in fall 2021 with an implementation plan for a 40 km/h speed limit on all local and minor collector roads in the Town of Oakville.

Staff reported back in [October 2021](#) with the recommended implementation plan for a 40 km/h speed limit on all local and minor collector roads. Council deferred the implementation plan and directed staff to continue monitoring the existing 40 km/h Areas of Heritage Way and West River as well as to add a new 40 km/h Area in Lakeshore Woods. Staff collected speed data at 16 different locations in the Heritage Way neighbourhood for four seasons. Results in *Appendix B* show the comparison between “before” speeds and the speeds collected in May 2023 for the Heritage Way neighbourhood. Speed data, while varying in range when looking at individual locations, indicated an overall increase of 1.0km/h for all locations studied compared to operating speed before implementing the pilot. The speed data was presented to Council in [September 2023](#) reiterating the findings from January 2021 that the lower speed limit signs, on their own, were not effective in reducing operating speeds. In addition, staff provided two options for implementing the 40km/h speed limit should Council wish to proceed. Ultimately, Council voted against implementing a 40km/h speed limit on all local and minor collector roads. However, the speed limits in the 40km/h pilot areas of Heritage Way, West River, and Lakeshore Woods, were maintained and did not revert back to 50km/h.

On [July 9, 2024](#), Council directed staff to conduct public consultation in the Heritage Way neighbourhood for reinstating the 50km/h posted speed limit from the current posted speed limit of 40km/h on all streets in Heritage Way 40km/h Area (excluding 40km/h school zones on Heritage Way) and report back with the public consultation results.

### **COMMENT/OPTIONS:**

On October 30, 2024, a letter was distributed to approximately 1900 households within the Heritage Way neighbourhood. The letter provided the required information to access an online survey, as well as contact information of staff should a resident wish to correspond via telephone or email. The letter is included in *Appendix C* of this report. The survey requested feedback, asking the residents for their opinion on:

- Maintaining the 40km/h Area speed limit; or
- Reverting to a 50km/h speed limit on all roads within the neighbourhood, except Heritage Way within the existing school zones.

### **Survey Responses**

The resident survey was available online for one month, from October 30 to November 29, 2024. Responses were received from 320 households through the online survey, as well by phone and email correspondence with staff. The respondents' addresses were well distributed throughout the neighbourhood.

Of the respondents, 54% indicated support for the 40km/h Area speed limit to remain and 46% indicated support for all roads to revert to 50km/h (except for school zones).

Respondents were also asked to comment on what they have observed in general driving behaviour since the 40km/h Area speed limit was implemented. The survey offered a choice of three responses: 1. Driving slower, 2. Driving faster, or 3. No change. Of the responses received, 60% indicated observing 'no change' in driving behaviour. Results are provided in *Appendix D*.

### **Collision History**

Collision history within Heritage Way Neighbourhood was also analyzed by comparing the number of collisions before and after the 40km/h Area posted speed limit was implemented. The collision analysis considered three years prior to implementation from January 2017 to December 2019 and three years after implementation from January 2021 to December 2023. Data from 2020 was intentionally excluded due to potential anomalies caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic. A full year of data is not yet available for 2024.

Collision data indicates that there were 55 collisions, of all types, between January 2017 and December 2019 within the Heritage Way Neighbourhood. In comparison,

the total number of recorded collisions dropped to 24 between January 2021 and December 2023, representing a 56% reduction. The following table summarizes the yearly collision statistics.

**Table 1: Summary of Number of Collisions in the Heritage Way Neighbourhood – 2017 to 2019 and 2021 to 2023**

Year	Before Implementing Pilot			After Implementing Pilot		
	2017	2018	2019	2021	2022	2023
Collisions	18	17	20	7	6	11
3-year Total	55			24		

This significant reduction in collisions represents a positive change in the neighbourhood that may be attributed to lowered speed limit as well as other factors. Collision comparison is illustrated in Appendix E.

**Automated Speed Enforcement**

The town is launching its Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) program in January 2025. Fourteen (14) ASE cameras – two per ward - will be installed in Community Safety Zones within each ward on a 4-month rotation basis. There is an existing Community Safety Zone on Heritage Way from a point 10m east of Brays Lane and a point 10m east of Postmaster Drive, that includes both Heritage Glen Public School and St. Bernadette Catholic Elementary School. The implementation of ASE cameras on Heritage Way is anticipated to increase speed compliance and enhance road safety in the neighbourhood.

**Conclusion**

While the speed data presented in the September 2023 staff report showed that there was no decrease in operating speeds during the Heritage Way Neighbourhood 40km/h Area pilot, collision rates have decreased with the lower speed limits in effect. The 40 km/h Area pilot has been in place for over three years, and most of the survey respondents are in favour of maintaining the 40 km/h posted speed in the neighbourhood. Therefore, staff recommend maintaining the current 40 km/h posted speed in the Heritage Way Neighbourhood and not revert back to a 50km/h speed limit.

**CONSIDERATIONS:**

**(A) PUBLIC**

A notification letter will be distributed to residents indicating survey results and that speed limits in the neighbourhood will remain as currently posted.

**(B) FINANCIAL**

There are no financial impacts as a result of this report.

**(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS**

There are no impacts to other departments as a result of this report.

**(D) COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

This report addresses the corporate strategic goal(s) to:

- Improve town's multi-modal transportation network to support effective movement of people and goods, by promoting safe travel on town roads.

**(E) CLIMATE CHANGE/ACTION**

Slower vehicle operating speeds for any given vehicle generally requires less fuel per distance travelled. Therefore, maintaining 40km/h Areas may result in less production of greenhouse gases compared to a higher posted speed limit.

**APPENDICES:**

Appendix A – Heritage Way Neighbourhood Area Map

Appendix B – Speed Comparison Before-After 40km-h Area Implementation - Chart

Appendix C – Resident Letter

Appendix D – Survey Results

Appendix E – Collision Comparison

Prepared by:

Jacob McDonald

Traffic Technologist

Submitted by:

Jill Stephen

Director, Transportation and Engineering