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Atkins Drive – Traffic Calming Measures Information Report to Council

Report Number: INFO-2022-02

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In accordance with the Procedure By-law, any member of Council may make a request to the Town Clerk that this Report be placed on an upcoming Committee of the Whole agenda for discussion.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the Category 1 Traffic Calming measures on Atkins Drive, and other traffic related issues at this location.

Background

From the September 13, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting, Town Council adopted the following recommendation: That staff be directed to report back to Council regarding traffic calming measures in the area of the intersection of Atkins Drive and Quick Street. This recommendation was in reference to a previous staff report for this intersection on the agenda of the February 24, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting, being Report 2020-13.

Discussion

Atkins Drive is a local residential road in the Copper Hills south subdivision. Based on the previous review and as outlined in the staff report #2020-13 referenced above, the traffic calming measures recommended for Atkins Drive following the Town's Traffic Mitigation Policy are Category 1 measures. These are specifically meant to educate motorists and encourage behaviours that comply with speed limits in the Atkins Drive/Quick Street area.

The recommendations included the following:

1. Boulevard Signs. These signs were placed on Atkins Drive, as well as the new school bus loading sign in 2021. The new school bus loading sign is similar to the regular boulevard signs, and also include a specific measure to warn drivers of concentrated school bus activities. This street and area will be a continued focus of this program.
2. Solar Pole-mount radar boards. These will be placed on Atkins Drive as part of the Ward 1 rotation. A solar radar board was placed in November/December 2021.
3. Yellow centre line for 2022. The entire design of the Copper Hill subdivision consists of long curved roads. A yellow centre line pavement marking provides both guidance and visual narrowing of the road which would slow down motorists.

In addition to the traffic calming measures listed above, York Region Police have also since been made aware of the speeding and traffic issues related to school bus loading which should result in additional enforcement this year. The Town is planning to undertake a full monitoring traffic count program on Atkins Drive in 2022 to collect data and verify changes resulting from the actions taken. The previous Information Report #2021-01 regarding an all-way stop study for the Bob Gapp Drive/Atkins Drive intersection indicated the subdivision south of the intersection was still under construction. The Town will continue to monitor traffic flows on Atkins Drive and specifically at the Bob Gapp Drive intersection until the subdivision is completed and occupied, as this is expected to result in increased volumes and a review of appropriate traffic controls.

Staff additionally had discussions with the School Board regarding the number of school bus stops and locations in this area. It was indicated that school bus operations fluctuate with demands each school year. As well, the local area schools are being used as holding schools, so school bus operations are not in a regular pattern and it was indicated that it could be changing until school populations settle back into the typical school levels. The Atkins/Quick intersection was identified as a good centralized focal point for school bus operations, according to the school board will be a centralized locations for the foreseeable future.

Further to the school bus stop locations, the issue of the school bus stop arm camera is still under review at the current time. While the Town endorses this project and continues to monitor status and progress, the issue requires further cooperation among the Region, and more significantly the School Boards, the various school bus companies, and the provincial court system framework for dealing with offences.

Conclusion

Town staff will continue to monitor the speeds and traffic operations of Atkins Drive and the area. The additional Category 1 traffic calming measures on Atkins Drive should improve overall traffic operations and road safety. Additional monitoring will determine if any further mitigation measures are required in the future.

Business Plan and Strategic Plan Linkages

This report and actions addresses the following priorities under the “Safe Transportation (Streets)” Strategic Pillar:

ii) Continue to implement the traffic mitigation strategy and Active Transportation Plan and explore/advance an off-road Mullock multi-use path;

Consultation

No direct consultation was undertaken in the preparation of this report. This report and recommended actions were part of previous reporting to Town Council.

Human Resource Considerations

None.

Budget Impact

The Traffic Management budget – Speed Management have sufficient funds to implement the Category 1 Traffic Calming measures.

Attachments

None.

Contact

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Approval

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