



WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY REPORT

Information 	Recommendation ☐	Decision Request ☐	Councillor Activity ☐
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To: West Hants Regional Municipality Committee of the Whole

Submitted by: _____
Mark Phillips, CAO

Date: February 11, 2025

Subject: Traffic Calming Measures in School Zones

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

UPDATE

Traffic Authority , Troy Burgess has reached out to the local Nova Scotia Public Works Area Manager to discuss the application process and potential collaboration with NS PWs regarding the installation of digital speed signage for school zones in the municipality.

The following feedback has been received to-date:

1. The installation of digital speed signs on NS PWs roadways are not permitted without justification and evidence for their need.
2. There are a few conditions that need to be met. One of the most important is that there needs to be a demonstrated speeding issue, either where the 85th percentile speed, as determined by a speed study, exceeds the posted regulatory or advisory speed by at least 20%, or where there have been a high number of speed related collisions.
3. Digital speed signs must be installed and maintained at the applicant's expense. The applicant (municipality) would purchase an approved unit, install it, and commit to the maintenance of the sign.
4. A list of possible locations will need to be created.
5. An assessment would be conducted by NS PWs to determine the need. Assessments do take time to create the evidence required for a decision.

BACKGROUND

A motion was made at the January Council meeting as follows:

MOVED BY DEPUTY MAYOR FRANCIS AND COUNCILLOR MCLEAN THAT COUNCIL DIRECTS THE CAO TO ENGAGE WITH THE PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND MLA SHEEHY RICHARD TO ASCERTAIN POTENTIAL TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES UP TO AND INCLUDING EXPLORING DIGITAL SPEED SIGNAGE FOR ALL SCHOOL ZONES WITHIN THE WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY. MOTION CARRIED

Property ☐	Public Opinion 	Environment ☐	Social 	Economic ☐	Councillor Activity 
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DISCUSSION

NEXT STEPS

1. Request a speed / traffic assessment in the Brooklyn School Zone

Recognizing that the NS PWs Department has other applications for speed assessments I have requested that the municipality, through the WHRM Traffic Authority, start with the Brooklyn Elementary / West Hants Middle School Area as a pilot project for this initiative. There are no costs associated with the assessment and should NS PWs have capacity to conduct additional assessments in the immediate future, other school sites will be requested. The Traffic Authority, the RCMP, school administrators, NS PWs and others may have suggestions or express concerns for the prioritization of specific school zones that should be assessed. Opinions will be sought.

2. Correspondence to MLA Sheehy-Richard as directed by the Council motion for her awareness and support.
3. Ongoing discussions with NS PWs and the RCMP regarding other options to address school safety awareness.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Digital Speed Signs	\$8,000 to \$10,000 per set of two
Installation Costs	TBD
Ongoing maintenance and operations	TBD

It may be appropriate for the inclusion of digital signs in the 2025/26 Capital Budget if supported by Council in anticipation of the assessments that would support their installations.

ALTERNATIVES

ATTACHMENTS

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REVIEW

N/A