

## Scugog Responds to Questions about New Speed Limits

Have you seen the new speed limit signs being installed in Scugog? Here are answers to the most common questions about the signs.

### 1) Why are the speed limits being changed?

The safety of our community is the Township's highest priority and safety concerns about the speed of vehicles is one of the most frequent complaints that the Township Council and staff hear. To address this, a *Township Wide Speed Limit Review* was done with the objective to produce a set of recommendations for updating existing speed limits and to reduce speeding and speed related collisions. The approved recommendations include:

- An update to the Township's Speed Limit Policy with default speed limits as:

Road Classification	Default Speed Limit
Rural Local	60 km/hr
Urban Arterial C	60 km/hr
Urban Collector	50 km/hr
Urban Local	40 km/hr
School Zone	40 km/hr

- Efforts to improve compliance with speed limits:
  - Targeted enforcement with DRPS based on traffic data
  - Automated Speed Enforcement (future)
  - Public Education – safety campaigns, free lawn signs
  - New Traffic Calming Policy
  - New Community Safety Zones
  - Improved road signage

### 2) When do the new speed limits take effect?

The new speed limits are in effect as soon as signs are in place. All signs are expected to be installed by mid-August 2022.

### 3) How were the new speed limits determined?

The *Township Wide Speed Limit Review* was an in-depth study that included a detailed review of current speed limits, the Highway Traffic Act, the existing Speed Warrant Policy, research on speed and safety, the Region of Durham Strategic Road

Safety Action Plan, Canadian Guidelines for Establishing Posted Speeds, best practices in other municipalities, etc. to determine appropriate speed limits and provide recommendations to improve compliance with speed limits.

#### **4) Was the public engaged and consulted?**

Yes, public communications for this initiative included a news release, updates in the local paper, council announcements as well as a dedicated information page on the Township website and social media. As well, an online public survey took place in March 2020 and the results were used as one of the considerations in the *Township Wide Speed Limit Review*.

#### **5) How was the public informed about the speed limit changes?**

Throughout the process and once the decision from Council was made to reduce the speed limits, public communications processes were followed to inform the public of the proposed changes. Information was shared with the public by way of:

- The Township's website banner, a webpage dedicated to speed limits, social media posts, news releases and articles in local papers. There were three news releases about speed limit reductions and at least seven newspaper articles in the Port Perry Star and The Standard.
- Six Council and Committee reports between October 2020 and June 2022 as well as during the 2021 and 2022 Capital Budget reports. All reports are made available to the public online, videos of meetings are also available online and all meetings are open for public attendance.

To stay informed on what is happening in the Township, we encourage you to subscribe to Scugog News at [www.scugog.ca/news](http://www.scugog.ca/news) and/or follow the Township of Scugog social media channels on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/TownshipOfScugog> and Twitter @TwpofScugog

#### **6) Will lower speed limits actually lower the speed that people drive?**

Based on research, lower speed limits will have an impact on speeds but will work best when other actions are also taken to lower speeds and improve safety for all. The Township is also:

- Working with DRPS to provide enforcement based on traffic data
- Using mobile speed display boards to slow traffic
- Providing free lawn signs asking drivers to "Please Slow Down"

- Using Community Safety Zones around schools to increase fines
- Identifying roads most suitable for traffic calming measures
- Installing pedestrian crossovers

**7) What can residents do if they think the new speed limit is not appropriate for a specific road?**

A request to review the speed limit can be sent to Scugog Public Works at [works@scugog.ca](mailto:works@scugog.ca) and staff will review the road based on the ***Establishing Speed Limit Policy***.

For more information please go to: <https://www.scugog.ca/en/township-office/Public-Works.aspx#Speed-Limits> or contact 905-985-7346 X112 or [works@scugog.ca](mailto:works@scugog.ca).