



CITY OF WINDSOR MINUTES 10/21/2020

Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee Meeting

Date: Wednesday, October 21, 2020

Time: 4:30 o'clock p.m.

Members Present:

Councillors

Ward 1 - Councillor Francis

Ward 2 - Councillor Costante

Ward 4 - Councillor Holt (Chairperson)

Ward 8 - Councillor Kaschak

Ward 9 - Councillor McKenzie

Clerk's Note: Members participated via video conference, in accordance with Procedure By-law 98-2011 as amended, which allows for electronic participation during a declared emergency.

ALSO PARTICIPATING VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE ARE THE FOLLOWING FROM ADMINISTRATION:

Jake Renaud, Senior Manager of Pollution Control / Acting City Engineer

Dwayne Dawson, Executive Director of Operations / Deputy City Engineer

Shawna Boakes, Senior Manager of Traffic Operations & Parking

Karina Richters, Supervisor of Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change

Jeff Hagan, Transportation Planning Senior Engineer

Anna Ciacelli, Supervisor of Council Services

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson calls the meeting of the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee to order at 4:30 o'clock p.m.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None disclosed.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ETPS STANDING COMMITTEE

3.1. Adoption of the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee minutes of its meeting held September 23, 2020

Moved by: Councillor Francis
Seconded by: Councillor McKenzie

THAT the Minutes of the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee meeting (excluding Transit matter items) held September 23, 2020 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

Moved by: Councillor Costante
Seconded by: Councillor Kaschak

THAT the Minutes of the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee meeting (Transit matter items only) held September 23, 2020 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

Report Number: SCM 289/2020

4. REQUEST FOR DEFERRALS, REFERRALS OR WITHDRAWALS

None requested.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

None presented.

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6. PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

None presented.

7. COMMITTEE MATTERS

7.1. Minutes of the Windsor Bicycling Committee of its meeting held July 28, 2020

Moved by: Councillor Francis
Seconded by: Councillor Costante

Decision Number: **ETPS 787**

THAT the minutes of the Windsor Bicycling Committee (WBC) of its meeting held July 28, 2020 **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 272/2020

Clerk's File: MB2020

7.2. Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority Regular Board Meeting Minutes of the meeting held August 5, 2020

Moved by: Councillor Francis
Seconded by: Councillor McKenzie

Decision Number: **ETPS 788**

THAT the minutes of the Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority (EWSWA) of its Regular Board meeting held August 5, 2020 **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 274/2020

Clerk's File: MB2020

8. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

8.1. City of Windsor Carbon Budget

Councillor McKenzie inquires as to what extent Council would get information moving forward regarding the progress being made on reaching emissions target, or if that is already being done. Karina Richters, Supervisor Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change, appears via video conference regarding the administrative report "City of Windsor Carbon Budget" and indicates that a report regarding the greenhouse gas inventory currently goes to Council every two years and she does not foresee any issues with providing the information annually.

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Councillor Francis inquires about administrations' reports related to the City of Windsor and what can be done regionally with surrounding Municipalities as well as the City of Detroit. Councillor Francis adds that consistency, cooperation, and partnerships could have a great impact. Ms. Richters agrees and adds that administration is working constantly with neighbouring municipalities across Canada. Ms. Richters indicates that the City of Detroit has more aggressive emission targets than Windsor. Ms. Richters has reached out to them and presented to the Detroit Climate Task Force about what Windsor is doing and moving forward to working together. Ms. Richters indicates that the County of Essex is currently developing their Community Energy Plan and their draft targets are more aggressive than Windsor's. Ms. Richters adds that many of their strategies moving forward will align with Windsor's Community Energy plan, although the County has included considerations for greenhouse emissions.

Councillor Francis requests that an update on regional occurrences be included as part of future reporting.

Moved by: Councillor McKenzie
Seconded by: Councillor Kaschak

Decision Number: **ETPS 789**

1. THAT the report of the Community Energy Plan Administrator dated September 30, 2020, entitled "City of Windsor Carbon Budget" **BE RECEIVED** for information; and,
2. THAT Administration **BE REQUESTED** to report annually for Council's information, regarding the progress being made on achieving Greenhouse Gas Emissions targets as articulated in the Degrees of Change document.

Carried.

Report Number: S 135/2020
Clerk's File: EI/10822

8.2. CQ7-2020 40 km/h Residential Speed Limits - City-wide

Councillor Kaschak inquires about the options in the report and requests more information related to Option 2. Jeff Hagan, Transportation Planning Senior Engineer, appears via video conference before the Environment, Transportation and Public Safety Standing Committee regarding the administrative report "CQ7-2020 40km/h Residential Speed Limits – City Wide" and indicates that most roads in the City that have a 50km/h speed limit do not have signs posted. Mr. Hagan adds that administration would have to ensure that all 50km/h roads had the posted 50km/h sign and then reduce the default speed limit; this process can take approximately 2 years.

Councillor Kaschak inquires about the 60km/h speed and whether that would be reduced to 50km/h. Mr. Hagan indicates that the 60km/h roads would remain that speed, and the arterial roads which are mostly 50km/h but not signed would require signage.

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Councillor Kaschak comments that currently in his Ward, i.e. Jefferson and Pillette, there aren't many speed signs and inquires whether those signs would have to be added and what approximate number of signs would be required. Mr. Hagan indicates that the number of signs is approximately 2000-3500 signs. Mr. Hagan adds that reducing the speed requires more signs and would also require gateway signs at city limits advising that the speeds have been reduced.

Councillor Kaschak inquires about the current signs and whether they can be re-used by using a draping. Mr. Hagan indicates that if the default speed changed the sign would be removed. Mr. Hagan adds that if the sign indicates 40km/h then it can be left. Shawna Boakes, Senior Manager Traffic Operations and Parking, appears via video conference before the Environment, Transportation and Public Safety Standing Committee regarding the administrative report "CQ7-2020 40km/h Residential Speed Limits – City Wide" and indicates there is no need to remove the signs until they didn't meet the reflectivity standards and then they would have to be removed and replaced.

Councillor Kaschak requests a comment on midblock and intersection collisions. Mr. Hagan indicates the statistics provided in the report were meant to be provided as a whole for comparison purposes.

Councillor Francis refers to the number of streets in the Roseland area that are currently set at 40km/h and comments that other factors come into play, including traffic calming measures that help reduce the speed of drivers in the area. Mr. Hagan indicates that a number of different strategies are outlined in refining the speed management program, which are included in next steps in the administrative report. Mr. Hagan adds that in residential neighborhoods traffic calming measures, including speed humps, curb bump outs and radar speed signs, may be utilized as deemed warranted in addition to the speed lowering.

Councillor Francis inquires as to the current practice of reducing speed limits in certain areas based on warrant studies. Dwayne Dawson, Executive Director of Operations, appears via video conference before the Environment, Transportation and Public Safety Standing Committee regarding the administrative report "CQ7-2020 40km/h Residential Speed Limits – City Wide" and indicates that warrant studies are required for traffic calming. Mr. Dawson adds that one of the methods for traffic calming is to reduce speed, but that is usually done in conjunction with other methods. Mr. Dawson states that traffic volume and speeds are considered for traffic calming measures.

Councillor Francis inquires as to whether 50km/h is a safe speed for residential streets and are they comparable with other municipalities. Mr. Hagan indicates that the appropriate operating speed varies according to the type of street. Mr. Hagan adds that the speed informs other things such as sight lines.

Councillor Francis inquires as to default speeds and whether the Province indicates that 50km/h is too fast and if there are other municipalities implementing default speeds. Mr. Hagan indicates that very few municipalities have reduced their speed to 40km/h across the municipality. Mr. Hagan indicates that he is only aware of Tilbury introducing this. Mr. Hagan adds that Hamilton and other

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areas have done 40km/h speed area signs, not as a City Wide default limit. Councillor Francis inquires as to whether information is available if it worked in Tilbury. Mr. Hagan indicates that they have not received any data as it is a recent change. Mr. Hagan adds that the *Highway Traffic Act* was amended in 2017 to allow for reduction of speeds.

Councillor Francis would like to hear from Windsor Police Services, and he adds that he does not think people will slow down just because a speed limit sign is changed; he thinks other measures in conjunction with lowering speed are necessary. Councillor Francis adds that more enforcement/traffic blitzes would be required, and his concern is that a blanket reduction in speed reduces the significance of the current lower 40km/h areas. Councillor Francis inquires whether police would be able to target areas or would they need more resources to do more blitzes. Mr. Hagan indicates that the comments received from Windsor Police Services indicate that a lowering of speed limits will likely lead to an increase in demand for enforcement that may have a financial impact.

Councillor Francis expresses concern with taking resources away from areas that have undergone warrant studies if a reduced blanket speed is approved.

Councillor Francis expresses concern with the current traffic calming policy being a slow process and whether it can be expedited. Mr. Hagan indicates that an update to the traffic calming policy, which will be brought to Council in the fall, will include the expedited process as per direction from Council.

Councillor Francis inquires as to the streets that are currently 40km/h streets and whether they would stay that way. Administration confirms that they would remain this way.

Councillor McKenzie refers to a study published in *Globe and Mail*, which shows a 25% decrease in pedestrian collisions over 5 years of the study. Administration is not aware of the study.

Councillor McKenzie inquires whether the severity of collisions would be lower with a lower speed. Mr. Hagan indicates that impact speed is major factor in the severity of collisions as well as many other factors that are considered, and he agrees the severity would generally be lower.

Councillor McKenzie inquires as to speed limits and operating speed ranges. Mr. Hagan indicates that changing the speed limit does not typically change driver behaviour. Mr. Hagan adds that setting a speed limit to a value not appropriate for that area may result in a variety of speed ranges which may be too high or too low.

Councillor Costante inquires whether the added enforcement would be a short term and a long term reality. Mr. Hagan indicates that the police comments did not specify this.

Councillor Holt inquires whether speed reduction would inform road construction moving forward, specifically road designs for different engineered speed. Mr. Hagan indicates there will be a report related to a complete streets policy for Council consideration in the next year. Mr. Hagan adds that

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generally local streets are not designed for 50km/h at the moment. Mr. Hagan adds that speeds would affect sightlines and not necessarily the design of road.

Councillor Holt inquires as to the design of roads and whether they are designed more for emergency and maintenance and being straighter and less congested contributes to speed factors. Mr. Dawson indicates that in general terms street widths are more of a concern and are designed in consultation with Windsor Fire Services. Mr. Hagan indicates that City Engineering design Standards are standard amongst surrounding municipalities.

Moved by: Councillor Kaschak

Seconded by: Councillor McKenzie

Decision Number: **ETPS 790**

THAT Council **APPROVE** Option 2: Decrease the default City-wide speed limit to 40 km/h and place 50 km/h speed limit signs on major roads that would remain at 50 km/h; and,

That the following next steps **BE APPROVED**:

- Develop specific criteria to identify which streets should be signed at 40 km/h.
- Develop a speed reduction strategy, either as an element of the Vision Zero Action Plan or separately.
- Develop refined cost estimates and bring forward a proposal to Council for consideration as part of budget deliberations, including the recommendation to establish a reserve for sign maintenance.
- At key points in the above steps, carry out public consultation with affected residents.

Carried.

Councillor Francis voting nay.

Report Number: S 111/2020

Clerk's File: ST2020

9. TRANSIT BOARD ITEMS

None presented.

10. ADOPTION OF TRANSIT BOARD MINUTES

None presented.

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11. QUESTION PERIOD

None registered.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee is adjourned at 5:27 o'clock p.m. The next meeting of the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee will be held November 25, 2020.
Carried.

Ward 4 – Councillor Holt
(Chairperson)

Supervisor of Council Services