



**Subject:** Community Safety Zone Policy

**Service Area:** Engineering Services

**Source:** Highway Traffic Act R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8. as amended

**Date:** 2023 05 01

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## 1. Introduction

The purpose of this Policy is to provide an established process to fairly evaluate all requests for the implementation of Community Safety Zones.

### 1.1. What Are Community Safety Zones?

Community Safety Zones are segments of roadways where public safety is of special concern. These zones may include roadways near parks/playgrounds, day care centres, recreation areas, hospitals, senior centres/residences, and areas with a large concentration of pedestrian activity.

### 1.2. How Community Safety Zones Work

Under the Ontario Highway Traffic Act, municipal councils may designate a segment of a roadway under its jurisdiction as a community safety zone if, in the council's opinion, public safety is of special concern on that segment of roadway.

Community Safety Zones are designated by municipal by-law. Signs are posted at the start and throughout the limits of the Community Safety Zones, clearly identifying the limits. The rules of the road do not change in community safety zones; however, fines are increased for traffic related violations in these zones.

## 2. Implementation Process

While Community Safety Zones can be an effective tool for improving road safety, it is imperative that a consistent and comprehensive approach be used for implementation. This will help reduce confusion and improve compliance among drivers in these zones.

### 2.1. Community Safety Zone Request

To request a location be considered for a Community Safety Zone, the requester may:

1. Complete the Traffic Concern Form located on the city website; or
2. Submit a request in writing to the City's Engineering Services Division.

### 2.2. Criteria Assessment

Once the request is received, staff will review the request against the following criteria:



- **Presence of Community Facilities** – The subject road segment must be adjacent to at least one of the following community facilities: parks/playgrounds, daycare centres, recreation areas, hospitals, and senior centres/residences.
- **Posted Speed** – The posted speed limit must not exceed 60km/hr.
- **Number of Lanes (Both Directions)** – The subject road segment must not exceed 3 lanes.
- **Average Daily Traffic Volumes** – Higher priority will be given to road segments with higher traffic volumes.
- **Pedestrian Facilities** – Higher priority will be given to road segments lacking, or with insufficient pedestrian facilities.
- **Pedestrian Volumes** – Higher priority will be given to road segments with higher pedestrian volumes.

### 2.3. Road Segments that Meet Criteria

If staff determine that the requested road segment meets the criteria above, a report with the findings will be presented to City Council, recommending that the segment of roadway in question be designated as a Community Safety Zone. If the recommendation is approved by Council, the by-law will be amended to designate the road segment as a Community Safety Zone.

### 2.4. Road Segments that Do Not Meet Criteria

If staff determine that the road segment does not meet the required criteria, the process is terminated, and the requester will be advised of the decision in writing with copies sent to the affected ward Councillors. The road segment will not be considered for another review for a period of 24 months unless there have been significant changes to the traffic patterns in the area.

Council may designate roadway segments as Community Safety Zones against staff recommendations.

## 3. Record Keeping

All requests will be kept on file to ensure transparency and to improve response efficiency for similar requests.

## 4. Community Safety Zone Prioritization List

Staff will bring Community Safety Zone recommendations to Council on a yearly basis, or more frequently if required. The reporting will include a prioritized list of all recommended implementations along with justification for each.