

Memorandum

Date: Tuesday, September 21, 2021

To: Members of Council

From: Devan Lobo, Senior Business Analyst, Corporate Strategy & Innovation
Arash Olia, Manager of Transportation Engineering, Engineering Services

Subject: Update on Advocacy Efforts Related to Highway 10 and Olde Base Line Traffic Concerns

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an overview of the recent advocacy efforts related to Highway 10 and Olde Base Line traffic concerns, the associated outcomes and outline potential next steps.

Background

Provincial Highway 10 at Olde Base Line Road contains various uses such as residential, small-scale commercial, institutional (Church), GO Bus Stops and a Veterinary Clinic. Throughout 2020 and still today, a number of traffic concerns were raised with regards to the Highway 10 and Olde Base Line intersection.

The Town has a number of traffic calming measures in place and continues to implement measures with respect to Town roads. In this case, Provincial and Regional support is needed as Highway 10 is a Provincial Highway and Olde Base Line Road (Peel Regional Road 12) is a Regional Road and, therefore the jurisdiction of the respective governments.

While the Province does have a number of education and awareness campaigns related to road safety and provides Ontario Road Safety Annual Reports, it does not have an official road safety plan. On April 26, 2021, the Provincial Government introduced Bill 282 Moving Ontarians More Safely Act to combat street racing/stunt driving, and aggressive and unsafe driving on our roads. The legislation includes measures to protect vulnerable road users, such as pedestrians and highway workers, improve truck safety, and strengthen provincial oversight of the towing sector. Bill 282 received Royal Assent on June 3, 2021 and took effect July 1, 2021.

The Region of Peel and the Town of Caledon supports a Vision Zero approach to road safety and developed a Road Safety Strategic Plan (RSSP) to address collisions on Regional roads that result in injury or death. The Region also provides various education and awareness campaigns with respect to road safety.

Town position

On September 29, 2020 Caledon Council passed a resolution requesting the Province reduce the speed limit and support the installation of a red-light camera at the intersection by early 2021 to improve driver and pedestrian safety. Following the Council meeting, staff sent a copy of the resolution to the Ontario Minister of Transportation, Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones, Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and the Region of Peel.

Town Action and Progress

While MTO conducted speed studies in September 2020 the findings resulted in no recommended action.

Throughout 2021 staff, with the Mayor and various members of Council followed up and met with MTO, OPP, and the Region of Peel on a number of occasions to advocate for traffic control assistance at the Highway 10 and Olde Base Line intersection, review data and discuss options. In particular, staff provided collision data in collaboration with OPP as well as rationales to support the Town's positions.

As a result of these meetings, MTO agreed to review the Town's request and further investigate the intersection and installed public education signs along the Highway 10 corridor that remind drivers to observe the posted speed limit and provide the Highway Traffic Act fine for speeding. In addition, MTO requested the OPP increase enforcement in the area.

MTO conducted additional speed studies at various locations along the Highway 10 corridor throughout April 2021. An operational review of Highway 10 at Olde Base Line Road which included information gathering from a temporary video camera at the intersection, was conducted to investigate respective design criteria, collision history and experience, signing and potential influence of adjacent rural land uses on driver behaviour. At the Town's request, the Ministry also reviewed the option of installing 'be prepared stop when flashing' beacons in advance of the intersection.

Town staff, with the Mayor and various members of Council had a meeting on June 30 with the MTO officials and technical staff. The Town's position was presented and MTO provided the findings of their investigations. Based on the results of the studies, MTO advised they were not supportive of speed reduction or flashing beacons, however, they mentioned that they would revisit their position.

In mid-July 2021, the OPP conducted a safe driver campaign along Highway 10. Following this campaign, Councillor Kiernan sent a letter to MTO requesting the Ministry review the Town's data again and work with Town staff to ensure the safety of the intersection.

In August, MTO provided a Draft of Operational and Safety Review of the intersection, and as a result of this review, the Ministry recommends a revised signal timing plan, and increase in police enforcement along the Highway 10 corridor. Town staff thoroughly reviewed the report, and with Councillor Kiernan had a follow-up meeting with MTO on September 8, 2021. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the findings, provide technical comments regarding MTO recommendations and advise MTO to revisit their decisions with the goal of 1) including transverse line marking, similar to the intersection of Highway 10 and King Street and 2) flashing beacons in response to ever-increasing speeding and safety issues.

The Town's position with respect to the flashing beacons is supported by the Provincial guidelines set out in the Ontario Traffic Manual as one of the appropriate locations to install the flashing beacons - where there is a collision or conflict experience related to the amber signal phases drivers or where drivers are exposed to many kilometres of roadway with a posted speed of 60 km/hr or greater and then encounter a traffic signal.

Next Steps

Following the September 8, 2021 meeting, and in response to the Town's comments and concerns, MTO advised that they will revisit their decision and take a further look at their recommendations. Town staff are awaiting MTO's response regarding traffic operations on Highway 10 approaching Olde Base Line as well as a follow-up meeting with the Ministry. As the Town's advocacy progresses, updates will continue to be provided to Council.