



Policy

POL.COR.25.00 Community Safety Zone

Policy Type:	Corporate Policy (Approved by Council)
Date Approved:	Month, 00, 2025
Department:	Operations – Roads and Drainage
Staff Report:	OPS.25.047
By-Law No.:	2025-XX

Policy Statement

A policy establishing a process for evaluating and designating Community Safety Zones.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a clear and consistent process for evaluating and designating Community Safety Zones (CSZs) in the Town of The Blue Mountains. CSZs are intended to improve safety for residents, visitors, and vulnerable road users, particularly in areas where there is significant pedestrian, cyclist, or seasonal traffic activity.

Application

This policy applies to all roadways owned and maintained by the Town of The Blue Mountains.

Definitions

Community Safety Zone (CSZ): As defined under the Ontario Highway Traffic Act, an area designated on a portion of a highway where public safety is of special concern. Traffic violations within a CSZ are subject to increased fines.

Warrant Criteria: The standards adopted by the Town of The Blue Mountains to evaluate road segments for CSZ designation.

Requestor: A resident, community association, or stakeholder submitting a formal request for CSZ designation.

Procedures

Community Safety Zones are a proven tool to support safer driving behaviour. To preserve their effectiveness, CSZs must be applied selectively to areas of highest concern.

1. Requests for Community Safety Zone Designation

Requests must be submitted in writing to the Director of Operations (Transportation Services) or designate.

Requests shall:

- Identify the proposed road segment(s).
- Include evidence of support from at least 65% of households located within the proposed segment.
- Provide rationale for the request, including observed safety concerns.

2. Evaluation Criteria

Staff will evaluate each request against the following warrant criteria:

- a) Proximity to Community Facilities: Road segments adjacent to schools, day care centres, playgrounds, parks, hospitals, senior housing, community centres, or tourism-related pedestrian generators (e.g., ski areas, waterfront access, trailheads) will be prioritized.
- b) Traffic Safety Data: Staff will review average daily traffic (ADT), speed data, and collision history. Segments with higher-than-average traffic volumes or documented collision history will be prioritized.
- c) Active Transportation: Road segments with pedestrian and cyclist activity, or those lacking sufficient pedestrian/cycling infrastructure, will receive higher priority.
- d) Seasonal/Tourism Impacts: Roads with significant increases in traffic volumes during peak tourism or seasonal events will also be considered.
- e) Enforcement Capacity: Staff will consult with the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) to confirm that sufficient resources are available to enforce the proposed CSZ designation. If OPP indicate that enforcement is not feasible, the request may not proceed.

Staff may adjust the proposed limits of the CSZ to reflect actual conditions, including extending or reducing the boundaries.

3. Council Approval

If staff determine that the proposed road segment meets the warrant criteria and the OPP confirm enforcement capacity, a staff report will be prepared for Council's consideration. CSZ designations shall be approved through By-law.

4. Notification of Non-Approval

If a proposed area does not meet the warrant criteria, or if the OPP identify insufficient enforcement capacity, the requestor will be notified in writing. The same road segment will not be reconsidered for a minimum of 24 months, unless traffic patterns or safety conditions have significantly changed.

5. Posted Speed Limits

All Community Safety Zones will retain the existing posted speed limit unless a separate review recommends a change. Speed limit adjustments require a separate Council approval process.

Exclusions

Nil

References and Related Policies

Consequences of Non-Compliance

N/A

Review Cycle

This policy shall be reviewed every five (5) years by the Operations Department, or sooner if directed by Council, to ensure alignment with best practices, community needs, and OPP enforcement capabilities.