SUBJECT: Request for a Speed Limit Reduction and a Designated Right Turn Lane - Mud Street between Paramount Drive and Upper Centennial Parkway (PW06055) - (Ward 9)

RECOMMENDATION:
(a) That the existing 70 km/h speed limit on Mud Street between Upper Centennial Parkway and Paramount Drive be retained.
(b) That no action be taken on the request for a designated Westbound Right Turn Lane into the Heritage Hills Shopping Plaza on the north side of Mud Street, east of Paramount Drive.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:
Councillor Phil Bruckler advised staff of a request to lower the speed limit on Mud Street between Upper Centennial Parkway and Paramount Drive from 70 km/h to 60 km/h. Staff have reviewed this section of roadway utilizing the policy for “Setting Speed Limits on City of Hamilton Roadways” and concluded that the appropriate speed is 70 km/h which again, is the current posted speed limit on Mud Street. Therefore, staff does not support the request to reduce the speed limit.

Staff also reviewed a request to construct a designated Westbound Right Turn Lane into Heritage Hills Shopping Plaza located on the north side of Mud Street, just east of Paramount Drive. Implementing a designated Right Turn Lane may actually result in
higher westbound travel speeds along Mud Street since motorists would not be delayed or slowed by turning traffic ahead of them. Recent turning movement counts conducted at the two entrances to the plaza off Mud Street revealed a moderate number of turning vehicles but not to the extent that capacity at Mud Street and Paramount Drive is significantly impacted or that an exclusive right turn lane is required.

**BACKGROUND:**

That the information/recommendations contained within this report primarily affect Ward 9.

**Speed Limit Reduction Request**

In response to Councillor Phil Bruckler's request, staff reviewed the speed limit on Mud Street between Upper Centennial Parkway and Paramount Drive. This segment was reviewed utilizing the Council approved policy for Setting Speed Limits for the City of Hamilton. The policy considers such factors as pavement width, length of roadway, horizontal and vertical geometrics, driveway density, and vehicular and pedestrian volumes. Based on these factors, staff has determined that the appropriate operating speed for Mud Street should be posted at 70 km/h. Setting unrealistic speed limits on city streets merely results in increased requests for Police speed enforcement.

Presently, the speed limit on Mud Street is posted at 70 km/h. Staff has determined that this is appropriate speed limit for Mud Street and that it should be retained.

**Designated Right Turn Lane Request**

Staff recently conducted turning movement counts at both entrances to the Heritage Hills Shopping Plaza via Mud Street. The results indicate a moderate number of right turns into the plaza but not to the extent that capacity at Mud Street and Paramount Drive is significantly impacted or that an exclusive right turn lane was required.

**ANALYSIS/RATIONALE:**

The recommendation conforms to Council’s approved policy related to setting speed limits in Hamilton.

**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:**

One alternative would be to lower the posted speed limit. However, when unrealistic speed limits are set, it often results in increased requests for speed enforcement. The objective of setting a speed limit is to provide a speed limit that the majority of motorists will respect and obey with minimal police enforcement.

**FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

N/A
POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:

The subject recommendation is in keeping with the policy for “Setting Speed Limits on City of Hamilton Roadways”.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION:

Hamilton Police Services support the application of the City’s speed limit policy and will provide enforcement as necessary.

CITY STRATEGIC COMMITMENT:

By evaluating the “Triple Bottom Line”, (community, environment, and economic implications) we can make choices that create value across all three bottom lines, moving us closer to our vision for a sustainable community, and Provincial interests.

Community Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No
Public services and programs are delivered in an equitable manner, coordinated, efficient, effective and easily accessible to all citizens.
Participation in community life is accessible to all Hamiltonians.
The public are involved in the definition and development of local solutions.

Environmental Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No
Human health and safety are protected.
Consumption of all natural resources is reduced.
Climate-related risks are managed; Greenhouse Gas emissions are reduced.
Consumption of energy is reduced; alternative energy and co-generation are supported.
A sustainable transportation network provides many options for people and goods movement; vehicle-dependency is reduced.

Economic Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No
Hamilton's high-quality environmental amenities are maintained and enhanced.

Does the option you are recommending create value across all three bottom lines? ☑ Yes ☐ No

Do the options you are recommending make Hamilton a City of choice for high performance public servants? ☐ Yes ☑ No
Heritage Hills Shopping Plaza

Mud Street between Upper Centennial Parkway and Paramount Drive

LOCATION PLAN

SPEED LIMIT CHANGE REQUEST:
Mud Street between Upper Centennial Parkway and Paramount Drive
CITY OF HAMILTON
Public Works Department

LEGEND

SUBJECT SECTION OF ROADWAY

SCALE
NOT TO SCALE
DATE 2006-05-30

REFERENCE FILE NO: PW06055