SUBJECT: Speed Limits - Fifth Road East Between Powerline Road and Ridge Road (PW06100) - (Ward 11)

RECOMMENDATION:

(a) That the speed limit on Fifth Road East between Powerline Road and 300m north of Powerline Road be set at 50 km/h.

(b) That the speed limit on Fifth Road East between 300m north of Powerline Road and 300m south of Ridge Road be set at 40 km/h.

(c) That the speed limit on Fifth Road East between Ridge Road and 300m south of Ridge Road be set at 50 km/h.

(d) That the by-law outlined in Report PW06100 as Appendix “A” to amend the City of Hamilton Traffic By-law 01-215 be passed and enacted.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Staff received a request from the area Councillor to investigate safety concerns for Fifth Road East residents living on the plateau between Ridge Road and Powerline Road in Ward 11.

Poor roadway geometrics and access visibility on Fifth Road East requires a reduction in the 60 km/h speed limit. Therefore, staff support setting the speed limit on Fifth Road East at 50 km/h and then 40 km/h through the rural settlement.
BACKGROUND:
That the information/recommendations contained within this report primarily affects Ward 11.

The area Councillor met with staff to review safety concerns on Fifth Road East in the spring of 2006. Subsequent to this meeting, Staff reviewed the best options to improve the safety of residents on Fifth Road East between Powerline Road and Ridge Road.

Speed studies performed on Fifth Road East indicate the operating speed to be well over the posted limit of 60 km/h at 86.8 km/h. The speed these vehicles and inadequate sight lines for this speed leads to an unsafe condition for residents leaving their driveways through the hilly terrain. Through the reduction of the speed limit from 60 km/h to 50km/h and then to 40 km/h, drivers should become more aware to the potential hazards in the built up area of Fifth Road East.

ANALYSIS/RATIONALE:
The speed limit changes are in keeping with the approved policy, will increase the safety of residents, and therefore, staff supports lowering the speed limit on the subject roadways near this rural settlement.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:
Lowering the speed limit to 50 km/h on Fifth Road East between Ridge Road and Powerline Road would have minimal effect on improving safety. The sight distance requirements at 50 km/h would still inadequate for the residential accesses.

Lowering the speed limit to 40 km/h on Fifth Road East between Ridge Road and Powerline Road would have high non-compliance with the posted speed limit. This scenario would also not highlight the rural settlement at the top of the hill on Fifth Road East and therefore would have a minimal effect on improving safety.

FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:
Financial
Sufficient funds are available in regular current accounts to cover the cost of manufacturing, erecting and maintaining the required signs.

Staffing
N/A

Legal Implications
N/A

POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:
The subject recommendation is in keeping with the approved policy for “Setting Speed Limits on City of Hamilton Roadways”.
RELEVANT CONSULTATION:
The Ward Councillor was consulted through the initial review of the resident’s request.

CITY STRATEGIC COMMITMENT:
By evaluating the “Triple Bottom Line”, (community, environment, 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
Implementation of lower speed limits will highlight the presence of a residential area to motorists, thereby resulting in safer community.

Environmental Well-Being is enhanced. ☐ Yes ☑ No

Economic Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No

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
LOCATION PLAN

Fifth Road East
Between Powerline Rd and
Ridge Rd -
Speed Limits (Ward 11)
CITY OF HAMILTON
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

LEGEND

Proposed 50 km/h
Proposed 40 km/h

SCALE                  DATE
NOT TO SCALE           2006-07-28
REFERENCE FILE NO:    PW06100