CITY OF HAMILTON
Public Works Department
Environment & Sustainable Infrastructure Division

TO: Chair and Members
Public Works Committee

WARD(S) AFFECTED: WARD 14

COMMITTEE DATE: April 12, 2010

SUBJECT/REPORT NO:
Petition for Speed Limit Reduction - Weir Road - (PW10039) - (Ward 14)
(Outstanding Business List Item)

SUBMITTED BY:
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General Manager
Public Works Department

PREPARED BY:
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RECOMMENDATION
(a) That the speed limit on Weir Road, Governor’s Road and 2nd Concession West, remain at the current posted limit of 70 km/h, in keeping with the Council approved policy for setting speed limits on Hamilton roadways;

(b) That the item “Speed Reduction on Weir Road” be identified as completed and removed from the Public Works Committee Outstanding Business List.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
In May 2008, Traffic Engineering staff received a request from Robert Bogle to lower the speed limit on Weir Road between Governor’s Road and 2nd Concession West, from 70 km/h to 60 km/h. Staff investigated this request utilizing the former Council approved policy for setting speed limits on rural roads (TOE01189). The result of this investigation was the posted speed was correct at 70 km/h and this was communicated to Mr. Bogle. In July 2009, Mr. Bogle again contacted the Ward Councillor’s office with the same request. Staff used the newly-approved, updated Council Policy (PW09075) for setting speed limits on Hamilton roadways. The result was the same, that the posted speed limit remain at 70 km/h. Recently, the Ward Councillor has received a petition to lower the speed limit on Weir Road from 70 km/h to 60 km/h. Traffic Engineering staff has investigated this concern twice since 2008 at the request of constituent Robert Bogle. Nothing has changed since the last review, which would alter
staff recommendation. As confirmation that the roadway is operating well and safely, there have been no speed-related collisions on Weir Road in the past five years. As well, the speed limit is well-matched to the actual travel speeds.

It is recommended that the speed limit remain at the current posted speed of 70 km/h.

**Alternatives for Consideration - See Page 3**

### FINANCIAL / STAFFING / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In August 2008, staff installed an automated traffic recorder for 24 hours on Weir Road to determine the volumes and operating speed between Governor’s Rd and 2nd Concession West. The results of the counts were approximately 200 vehicles per day with an operating speed of approximately 77 km/h, which is appropriate given the roadway conditions and surrounding environment. The operating speed of any given roadway should indicate that the posted speed is realistic to drivers, which is the case on Weir Road. It should be noted that there have been no speed-related collisions on Weir Road in the past five years, which further indicates the speed limit is appropriate and the roadway is operating safely.

Weir Road is designed and functions similar to other rural roadways in the area with 70km/h speed limits. There are no justifiable reasons for arbitrarily lowering the speed limit to 60 km/h.

It is recommended that the speed limit remain at the current posted speed of 70 km/h.

### POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Both the current and former Council-approved policies support the recommendation.

The recommendations contained in this report support the Mission Statement of the Public Works Business Plan “Innovate Now”, “Provide safe, strategic and environmentally conscious services that bring our communities to life.”

### RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Traffic Engineering staff has consulted the Ward Councillor and he is aware of the recommendation being made.
ANALYSIS / RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) has worked with numerous municipalities and road authorities across Canada to develop a national standard guideline for assessing speed limits. The City of Hamilton took part in the testing and development of the guideline which was subsequently presented to and endorsed by City Council for use in assessing speed limits on Hamilton roadways.

Appropriately set speed limits lead to better credibility in the overall system, and better compliance for those locations where lower speed limits are actually required for safety reasons.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

Committee could choose to not to approve the staff recommendation. However, history has shown that travel speeds will remain unchanged unless ongoing and regular police enforcement is present.

CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN


Healthy Community

The recommendation generally supports a healthy community by trying to maintain an effective speed limit system in Hamilton.

APPENDICES / SCHEDULES

Appendix "A" to Report PW10039 - Site Map
Recommend speed Limit remain at 70 km/h

Weir Rd. from 2\textsuperscript{nd} Concession W. to Governor’s Rd.

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

LEGEND

\[\text{\(\uparrow\)}\] Recommend Speed Limit remain at 70 km/h

SCALE
NOT TO SCALE

DATE
April 12, 2010

HAMITON
WARD 14

APPENDIX “A”
REPORT PW10039