

**To:** COUNCIL

**Meeting Date:** 07/13/21

**Subject:** West River Road School Zone Designation

**Submitted By:** Kevin De Leebeeck, Director of Engineering

**Prepared By:** Jason Leach, Senior Transportation Engineering Technologist

**Report No.:** 21-170(CD)

**File No.:** C1101

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## Recommendations

THAT report 21-170(CD) – West River Road School Zone Designation be received;

AND THAT a School Zone and 40km/h speed limit be implemented on West River Road between Culham Drive and Grand Ridge Drive;

AND THAT Traffic and Parking Bylaw No. 187-06, Schedule 18, Rates of Speed, be amended to include a 40 km/h speed limit on West River Road between Culham Drive and Grand Ridge Drive;

AND THAT Traffic and Parking Bylaw No. 187-06, Schedule 1, No Parking, be amended to include a No Parking Anytime restriction on the west side of West River Road from 162 metres south of Culham Drive to 61 metres south thereof;

AND FURTHER THAT a Bylaw amending Traffic and Parking Bylaw No. 187-06 as detailed above be passed.

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## Executive Summary

### Purpose

- The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to proceed with the implementation of a School Zone and a 40 km/h speed limit on West River Road between Culham Drive and Grand Ridge Drive. As well as the implementation of a no parking anytime restriction on the west side of West River Road at the driveway to Tait Street Public School to accommodate Level 1 traffic calming measures.

## Key Findings

- A School Area with a 50 km/h speed limit is currently in place on West River Road between Culham Drive and Grand Ridge Drive. The School Area was installed in 2015 as a result of a new access for Tait Street Public School being constructed on West River Road.
- A speed study was conducted on West River Road between Culham Drive and Grand Ridge Drive in 2019. The results of the speed study indicate the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed on this section of West River Road is 60 km/h. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed represents the speed at which 85 percent of drivers are travelling at or below.
- Based on the current activity occurring in the area, the existing School Area designation was re-evaluated and it was found that a School Zone is warranted. A School Area is designated by School Area signs only, whereas a School Zone is designated by School Area signs and a 40 km/h speed limit.
- Level 1 traffic calming measures are warranted based on the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed as per the City's Traffic Calming Policy. Level 1 traffic calming measures include signs and pavement markings to help address speeding.
- To accommodate Level 1 traffic calming measures, a no parking anytime restriction is required on the west side of West River Road approximately 30 metres north and 24 metres south of the Tait Street Public School driveway eliminating seven (7) on-street parking spaces.
- Level 1 traffic calming measures include a painted centre median with seasonal traffic calming signs at the West River Road access to Tait Street Public School.

## Financial Implications

- Costs are estimated to be \$4,000 for required traffic sign and pavement marking improvements including Seasonal Traffic Calming signs will be funded through the 2021 Operating Budget.

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## Background

Transportation staff have received concerns regarding speeding on West River Road between Culham Drive and Grand Ridge Drive. Requests have been received to implement a School Zone, lower the posted speed limit and address traffic safety concerns around the access to Tait Street Public School.

West River Road currently has a posted speed limit of 50 km/h. A speed study was conducted on West River Road between Culham Drive and Grand Ridge Drive in 2019. The results of the speed study indicate the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed on this section of West River Road is 60 km/h. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed represents the speed at which 85 percent of drivers are travelling at or below. Speeding is considered to be atypical when the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds exceeds 10 km/h over the posted speed limit.

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## Analysis

### Strategic Alignment

PEOPLE To actively engage, inform and create opportunities for people to participate in community building – making Cambridge a better place to live, work, play and learn for all.

Goal #1 - Community Wellbeing

Objective 1.1 Work with partners to create a safe, inclusive and accessible city.

The recommendations of this report are intended to address resident traffic concerns while creating a safe and efficient transportation network for all users.

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### Comments

In order to address speeding on West River Road between Culham Drive and Grand Ridge Drive, a traffic review in this area was completed. The review included re-evaluation of the School Area designation and consideration of Level 1 traffic calming measures as per the City's Traffic Calming Policy. The current Traffic Calming Policy was approved by City Council on May 7, 2019 as part of the Transportation Master Plan, report 19-097(CD).

This section of West River Road is currently designated as a School Area with a 50 km/h speed limit. A School Area is delineated by School Area signs only, whereas a School Zone is delineated by School Area signs and a 40 km/h speed limit. The designation of a School Area or Zone is determined through a warrant system as per the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC), School and Playground Areas and Zones: Guideline for Application and Implementation.

In 2015 the School Area designation was implemented on West River Road as a result of the new driveway constructed to Tait Street Public School, which acts primarily as an exit for school buses, staff and visitors. However, the current activity has expanded to include many parents dropping off and picking up students near the West River Road school driveway. This activity results in significantly more pedestrian traffic in the area and thus impacts the results of the School Area/Zone Warrant.

Taking these factors into consideration, staff re-assessed the School Area/Zone Warrant. The results of the re-assessment indicate a School Zone with a 40 km/h speed limit is warranted. See Appendix A for a diagram of the School Zone and 40 km/h speed limit area.

Staff also reviewed potential Level 1 traffic calming measures in accordance with the City's Traffic Calming Policy. Level 1 traffic calming consists of traffic signs and pavement marking improvements as a means to address vehicle speeds. For this

location it is proposed to install a painted centre median along with seasonal traffic calming signs.

The intent of the painted median is to narrow the lane widths, altering driver behaviour by making drivers feel less comfortable about speeding in the presence of narrower lanes without negatively impacting the passage of emergency services. Seasonal traffic calming signs are used in conjunction with the painted median to better emphasize the lane narrowing while also reminding drivers they are in a School Zone.

To accommodate the painted centre median and seasonal traffic calming signs the implementation of no parking anytime restriction is required on the west side of West River Road at the school driveway extending 30 metres north of the driveway and 24 metres south. The parking restriction will eliminate seven (7) on-street parking spaces. Appendix B provides a diagram of the proposed parking restriction and Level 1 traffic calming measures.

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## Existing Policy/By-Law

The Transportation Association of Canada, School and Playground Areas and Zones: Guideline for Application and Implementation provides guidelines for the implementation of School Zones. These guidelines were used to guide the recommendations of this report.

The City's Traffic Calming Policy was also utilized to help determine the appropriate type of traffic calming measures. The current Traffic Calming Policy was approved by City Council on May 7, 2019 as part of the Transportation Master Plan, report 19-097(CD).

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## Financial Impact

- Costs are estimated to be \$4,000 for required traffic sign and pavement marking improvements including Seasonal Traffic Calming signs will be funded through the 2021 Operating Budget.

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## Public Input

All property owners adjacent to West River Road between Culham Drive and Grand Ridge Drive were notified regarding the recommendations of this report via mailed letter on May 19, 2021. No objections to staff's recommendation were received. However, two (2) concerns were received regarding West River Road being used as a student drop-off and pick-up area. These concerns have been forwarded to School Transportation Services Waterloo Region to consider school travel planning initiatives such as promotion of active transportation alternatives to Tait Street Public School.

The mailed letter from May 19, 2021 to adjacent property owners also included all relevant information regarding how to access a copy of this report, the date and time of this Special Council meeting and how to submit comments or register as a delegation.

This report has also been posted publicly as part of the report process.

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## Internal/External Consultation

There was no internal/external consultation undertaken.

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## Conclusion

Based on staff's review and the Transportation Association of Canada's guidelines, it is recommended that a School Zone with a 40 km/h speed limit be implemented on West River Road between Culham Drive and Grand Ridge Drive.

It is also recommended that a no parking anytime restriction be implemented on the west side of West River Road at the school driveway extending 30 metres north and 24 metres south of the driveway eliminating seven (7) on-street parking spaces. In combination with the parking restriction, Level 1 traffic calming measures including a painted centre median with seasonal traffic calming signs are also proposed to be implemented on West River Road at the access to Tait Street Public School.

The recommendations of this report align with the City's Strategic Plan, 2021 by supporting community wellbeing while creating a safe and efficient transportation network for all users.

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## Signature

### Division Approval



**Name: Kevin De Leebeeck**  
**Title: Director of Engineering**

Reviewed by the CFO

Reviewed by Legal Services

### Departmental Approval



**Name: Hardy Bromberg**  
**Title: Deputy City Manager, Community Development**

## City Manager Approval

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Calder". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

**Name: David Calder**

**Title: City Manager**

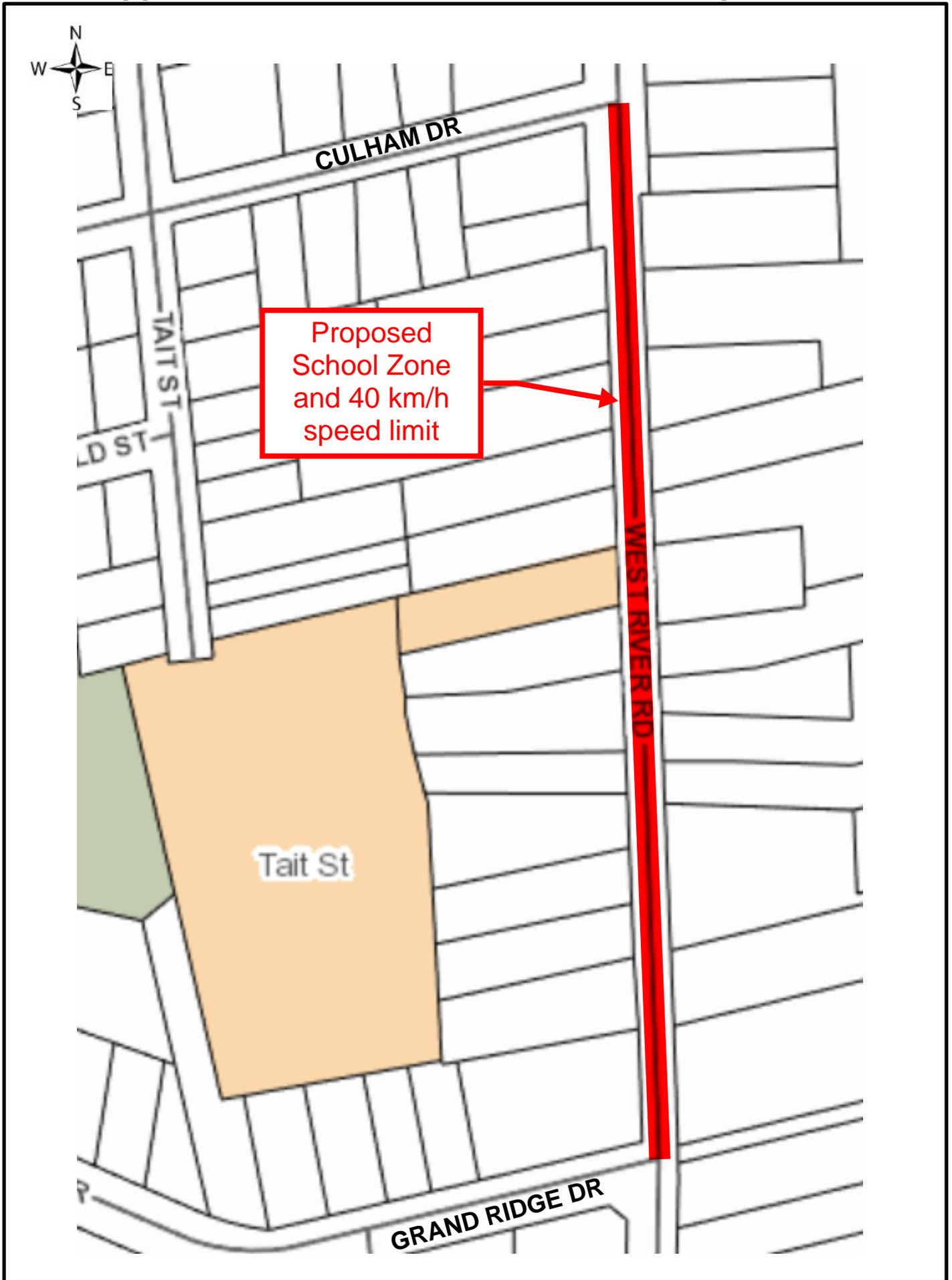
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### Attachments

Appendix A – School zone and 40 km/h Speed Limit

Appendix B – Painted Island and No Parking

# Appendix A - School Zone and 40 km/h Speed Limit



# Appendix B - Painted Island and No Parking

