



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee
From: Victor Wei, P. Eng.
Acting Director, Transportation
Re: SPEED LIMITS ON MAJOR ARTERIAL ROADS

Date: December 7, 2004
File: 10-6450-15-01/2004-Vol 01

Staff Recommendation

That the attached report on speed limits on major arterial roads in Richmond be received for information.

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Victor Wei, P. Eng.
Acting Director, Transportation
(4131)

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CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
[Signature]
REVIEWED BY TAG YES [checked] NO [ ]
REVIEWED BY CAO YES [checked] NO [ ]

## Staff Report

### Origin

At the October 13, 2004 meeting of the Community Safety Committee, the Chair requested information from staff on speed limits within the City. Specifically:

*The Chair referred to the speed limits on several of Richmond's major arterial roads, and asked that staff provide information on:*

- (i) when speed limits within the City had last been reviewed;*
- (ii) whether a review of these limits should be undertaken;*
- (iii) who had jurisdiction over City's roads; and*
- (iv) who was responsible for setting speed limits within the City.*

*Staff were also asked to include in the report, information from the RCMP on 'hot spots'.*

This report provides the requested information.

### Analysis

#### 1. Jurisdiction of City Roads

Per *Division 5 – Highways* of the provincial *Local Government Act*, the municipality has right of possession to the streets within its boundaries, which effectively means that a council may, by bylaw, regulate the uses of those streets with the exception of selected streets (or portions of streets) under the jurisdiction of federal, provincial or regional governments. Within Richmond, those streets and/or street segments not under the jurisdiction of the City are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 – Other Highway Authorities in Richmond		
Authority	Road	Between
Transport Canada (Federal Government)	Russ Baker Way Grant McConachie Way Miller Road Cessna Road Inglis Drive	No. 2 Road and the Arthur Laing Bridge YVR Main Terminal and Arthur Laing Bridge Airport Road and YVR Main Terminal Russ Baker Way and Miller Road Russ Baker Way and YVR South Terminal
Ministry of Transportation (Provincial Government)	Highway 91 Highway 91A Highway 99 Sea Island Way Bridgeport Road	Shell Road and Highway 91A Alex Fraser Bridge and Boundary Road Oak Street Bridge and Massey Tunnel Middle Arm Bridge and Oak Street Bridge Middle Arm Bridge to St. Edwards Drive
TransLink (Regional Government)	Knights Street Bridge	Vancouver and Richmond

#### 2. Speed Limits on Major Arterial Roads

The speed limit in Richmond is 50 km/h on all roads and 20 km/h on lanes as prescribed in Sections 146 (1) and 146 (8) of the *Motor Vehicle Act*. City Council may, by bylaw and in accordance with Section 146 (6) of the *Motor Vehicle Act*, establish the rate of speed a person may drive a vehicle on a road within the city. Those exceptions are established in the City's

Traffic Bylaw No. 5870, Section 10 and Schedules B,C, and D. Table 2 shows the sections of roadways listed in the Traffic Bylaw that have posted speed limits of 60 km/h.

<b>Table 2 – Richmond Roads with 60 km/h Speed Limit</b>	
<b>Road</b>	<b>Between</b>
Westminster Highway	No. 4 Road and Highway 91
No. 6 Road	Cambie Road and Westminster Highway
Vulcan Way	No. 6 Road and 46-m east of the Bath Slough Bridge
Garden City Road	Northbound – Westminster Highway and Sea Island Way Southbound – Sea Island Way and 90-m north of Westminster Highway
Alderbridge Way	Garden City Road and Shell Road

In addition, as shown in Table 3, various sections of roadways listed in the Traffic Bylaw have speed restrictions of 30 km/h, some of which are applicable to commercial vehicles only (i.e., vehicles with a gross vehicle weight over five tonnes) and some of which are applicable to all vehicles. The 30 km/h speed zones listed in Table 3 are in addition to the 30 km/h speed limits posted for school zones.

<b>Table 3 – Richmond Roads with 30 km/h Speed Limit</b>		
<b>Applies To</b>	<b>Road</b>	<b>Between</b>
All Traffic	Burkeville	Subdivision – all roads
Commercial Vehicles	Blundell Road	No. 4 Road and No. 5 Road
Commercial Vehicles	Dyke Road	Boundary Road and Hamilton Road
All Traffic	Finn Road	No. 4 Road and 244-m east of Garden City Road
Commercial Vehicles	River Drive	No. 4 Road and Shell Road
Commercial Vehicles	River Road	No. 7 Road and Westminster Highway (east)
All Traffic	No. 4 Road	Finn Road and Green Slough Bridge
Commercial Vehicles	No. 6 Road	Westminster Highway and Williams Road

### 3. Review of Speed Limits

Upon review of our records, staff were unable to determine the last time an overall review of speed limits within the city was conducted. Recent reviews have dealt with speed limit concerns at specific locations and have been conducted within the parameters set out in the *Motor Vehicle Act* and City Traffic Bylaw No. 5870.

Staff are aware that City of Vancouver staff have been directed to investigate lowering the speed limit on residential streets in Vancouver to 40 km/h. In this regard, staff have the following initial comments on this issue:

- residential roads within Richmond are typically wider than those in the City of Vancouver and thus can safely accommodate a maximum traffic speed of 50 km/h where conditions permit;
- the concept may be difficult to implement as it would require a legal definition of residential or local roads;
- to comply with Section 146 (6) of the *Motor Vehicle Act*, a speed limit sign would be required at every access point to a residential street from an arterial street, which would cost a significant amount of money and create sign clutter;

- increased enforcement would likely be necessary to ensure compliance with the lower speed limit; and
- the lower speed limit would likely necessitate a greater need for and funding of neighbourhood traffic calming measures to ensure compliance.

#### 4. RCMP Speed Enforcement

Richmond RCMP continue to conduct speed enforcement on major arterial roads as well as enhanced enforcement at specific locations when requested. At this time they are targeting the following locations for enhanced enforcement:

- No. 5 Road ;
- Steveston Highway;
- Cambie Road ;
- Westminster Highway ; and
- locations that have been identified as having high crash rates.

#### Financial Impact

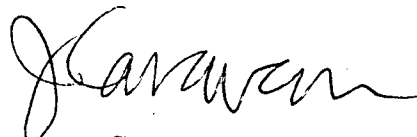
None to the City at this time.

#### Conclusion

The City policy of a speed limit of 50 km/h on all Richmond roads unless otherwise posted is consistent with the intent of Section 146 of the *Motor Vehicle Act* and with the practices of all other municipalities in the region. Future reviews of speed limits should be dealt with on an individual basis in accordance with established practices. Staff would not recommend deviating from this policy as it could create confusion among drivers crossing municipal boundaries.



Robert Gilchrist  
Traffic Supervisor  
(4030)



Joan Caravan  
Transportation Planner  
(4035)

RG:jc