



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Public Works and Transportation Committee **Date:** December 12, 2022
From: Lloyd Bie, P.Eng.
Director, Transportation **File:** 02-0775-50-7237/Vol
01
Re: **Proposed Amendments to Traffic Bylaw No. 5870 to Remove 60 km/h Speed Zones**

Staff Recommendation

- 1) That Traffic Bylaw No. 5870, Amendment Bylaw No. 10434, as described in the staff report titled "Proposed Amendments to Traffic Bylaw No. 5870 to Remove 60 km/h Speed Zones", be given first, second and third readings; and
- 2) A letter be sent to the Province of British Columbia to implement additional automated speed enforcement programs in Richmond.

Lloyd Bie, P.Eng.
Director, Transportation
(604-276-4131)

Att.1

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
RCMP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Roads	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

At the March 23, 2022 meeting of the Public Works and Transportation Committee, staff received the following referral:

- (1) That staff provide background information on the speed limit, traffic signs and other related issues along No. 6 Road and prepare a preliminary report highlighting other roads; and
- (2) That staff request information on the enforcement of vehicle speed, application of engine brakes and street racing from the Richmond RCMP; and report back.

This report responds to the referral.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #4 An Active and Thriving Richmond:

4.2 Ensure infrastructure meets changing community needs, current trends and best practices.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #6 Strategic and Well-Planned Growth:

6.3 Build on transportation and active mobility networks.

Analysis

Existing Bylaws and Provincial Regulations

The default maximum speed limit in Richmond is 50 km/h on all roads as set by the BC Motor Vehicle Act (MVA). City Council may by bylaw establish speed limit exceptions on a road within City jurisdiction. Traffic Bylaw No. 5870 lists the sections of road having a posted speed limit of 60 km/h as shown in Table 1:

Table 1: Richmond Roads with 60 km/h Speed Limit

Road	Segment
No. 6 Road	Cambie Road to Westminster Highway
Westminster Highway	No. 4 Road to No. 6 Road Nelson Road to Highway 91
Vulcan Way	No. 6 Road to 46 metres east of the Bath Slough Bridge
Alderbridge Way	No. 4 Road to Shell Road

The 60 km/h speed zones are historic and staff believe were established to provide speed transition zones on these road segments that connect City streets to higher speed provincial corridors.

There has been much study on the benefits of reducing speed limits to improve road safety since the time the City's 60 km/h speed zones were established. Further, with the increased prevalence of pedestrians and cyclists, review of the 60 km/h speed zones is appropriate at this time.

Speed Limit Study

A technical assessment of the speed limit for No. 6 Road and each of the 60 km/h roadway sections was carried out to determine if the standard 50 km/h speed limit is suitable.

No. 6 Road

With the exception of the segment between Westminster Highway and Cambie Road, No. 6 Road (approximately 7.5 km) has posted speed limit signs of 50 km/h. Staff assessed the physical characteristics, traffic signs, vehicle speeds and crash data (Attachment 1) within the 60 km/h roadway section:

Physical Characteristics: No. 6 Road is a four lane Arterial Road with a consistent road cross-section. From a transportation capacity perspective, the current operation of No. 6 Road does not warrant any geometric alterations at this time. The road serves transit passengers and pedestrians. There are bus stops on both sides of the streets and two pedestrian controlled sidewalks.

Traffic Signs: Informational signs advising of the City's 50km/h maximum speed limit are located on No. 6 Road near the Highway 91 on-and off-ramps. Reducing the posted speed limit in this section to 50 km/h will reinforce the maximum speed within City limits.

Vehicles Speeds: The speed data collected indicates excessive speeds with an 85th percentile speed of approximately 70 km/h in both directions on this section of No. 6 Rd. The RCMP have targeted enforcement along No. 6 Road numerous times over the last year. To date in 2022, Richmond RCMP report there have been 37 road safety enforcement actions on or at No. 6 Rd with 12 related to speed.

Crash Data: ICBC crash data was reviewed for this section of No. 6 Rd. The highest number of collisions occurred at the intersections of Cambie Road and Westminster Highway. Speeding is a top contributing factor of vehicle collisions.

As a result of the speed limit analysis, Staff recommend a constant and lower speed limit between Westminster Highway and Cambie Road of 50 km/h. This will establish consistent driver expectation along the entire length of No. 6 Road without decreasing road capacity.

To properly identify speed limits to motorists, appropriate signage is required. As there is currently 60 km/h posted speed signs on this section of roadway, these signs will be replaced with 50 km/h signs. Staff will coordinate with the Ministry of Transportation to replace signage as required within their jurisdiction necessary for the 50 km/h speed zone implementation.

Other 60 km/h Speed Zones

Staff assessed the other 60 km/h locations in the city. Each segment exhibits similar road geometry, traffic and roadside characteristics as the 50 km/h sections. Staff determined, a consistent maximum speed of 50 km/h on all sections of road is appropriate. Decreasing the speed limit to 50 km/h will help to curb speeding and simplify road operations for drivers.

Benefits of 50 km/h Speed Limit

Higher speeds contribute to a higher risk of serious injuries and fatalities by reducing driver reaction time and increasing the vehicle stopping distance. Implementing the default 50 km/h speed limit will provide road users with information that is consistent. A lower speed limit will also reduce the speed differential on these roads, thereby, improving pedestrian and cyclist safety.

To support compliance with the new 50 km/h speed limit signs, staff will coordinate targeted enforcement with RCMP staff.

RCMP Speed Enforcement

Richmond RCMP continue to conduct speed enforcement on major roads as well as enhanced enforcement at specific locations when requested. The locations identified as hot spots for speeding in Richmond are:

1. Westminster Hwy between No. 6 Rd and Nelson Rd
2. No. 4 Rd between Westminster Hwy and Alderbridge Way
3. Steveston Hwy
4. No. 5 Rd
5. Russ Baker Way

Table 2 provides data on speeding enforcement by the Richmond RCMP detachment.

Table 2: Richmond RCMP Speeding Tickets Issued

Number of Speeding Tickets Issued	Year
2909 Speeding 152 Excessive Speeding	2019
1655 Speeding 163 Excessive Speeding	2020
2198 Speeding 111 Excessive Speeding	2021
266 Speeding (up to and including May 1) 18 Excessive Speeding	2022

Automated Enforcement

Currently, there are nine red light camera locations in Richmond and one speed camera at the Garden City Road and Cambie Road intersection. Automated enforcement is an important tool to remind drivers to slow down and drive safely. Intersection safety cameras reduce red light running and speeding and prevent crashes. These programs have an advantage over traditional enforcement as they can operate 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

The red light camera and automated speed enforcement programs are within provincial jurisdiction. A letter to the province requesting additional automated enforcement programs in Richmond was previously sent in 2019. Staff recommend that the City send another request to the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General to provide red light and automated speed enforcement at more intersections in Richmond, including the corridors identified by the Richmond RCMP as hot spot locations.

Engine Brakes

Richmond RCMP report, there have been no tickets issued as a result of engine brake bylaw violations. Neither staff nor Richmond RCMP recorded any engine brake noise complaints, nor have RCMP observed engine brakes being used on a regular basis.

Financial Impact

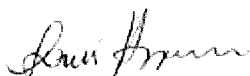
None. The installation of the 50 km/h signage can be accommodated within existing approved budgets.

Conclusion

Following completion of a technical assessment of the 60 km/h speed zones in the City, staff recommend the speed limit be reduced to 50 km/h.

Providing reduced and uniform speed limits has many benefits, including reducing vehicle operating speeds, improving road safety and setting clear and consistent expectations of drivers. Lowering the speed limit is also more compatible with active transportation.

Upon implementation of the recommended speed limit reduction, staff will continue to monitor the effected roads, coordinate with RCMP on enforcement and seek additional automated speed enforcement areas in the City from the Province.



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Att. 1: No. 6 Road Speed Limit Assessment

No. 6 Road Speed Limit Assessment

Existing Speed Limit Signs and Traffic Data:





**Traffic Bylaw No. 5870
Amendment Bylaw No. 10434**

The Council of the City of Richmond enacts as follows:

1. **Traffic Bylaw No. 5870**, as amended, is further amended by deleting the entirety of Schedule C to Traffic Bylaw No. 5870.
2. **Traffic Bylaw No. 5870**, as amended, is further amended by deleting the entirety of Section 10.2 and replacing it with the following:

“10.2 Intentionally left blank”
3. **Traffic Bylaw No. 5870**, as amended, is further amended by deleting all remaining references in the Bylaw to Schedule “C”.

This Bylaw is cited as, “**Traffic Bylaw No. 5870, Amendment Bylaw No. 10434**”.

FIRST READING

SECOND READING

THIRD READING

ADOPTED

CITY OF RICHMOND
APPROVED for content by originating dept.
APPROVED for legality by Solicitor
LB

MAYOR

CORPORATE OFFICER