



Staff Report for Council Meeting

Date of Meeting: April 14, 2021

Report Number: SRPI.21.017

Department: Planning and Infrastructure
Division: Infrastructure and Engineering Services

Subject: SRPI.21.017 – Lucas Street Community Safety Zone

Purpose:

To designate Lucas Street as a Community Safety Zone in response to resident requests.

Recommendation(s):

- a) That Staff Report SRPI.21.017 be received;
- b) That By-law No. 14-21 (Attachment 1 to staff report SRPI.21.017) be enacted to amend Article "1" of Municipal Code Chapter 1030 regarding Community Safety Zones within the City of Richmond Hill in order to designate Lucas Street from Trayborn Drive to Mill Street as a Community Safety Zone with an effective time of 24 hours per day, 7 days per week; and
- c) That York Regional Police (YRP) be advised of the new Community Safety Zone designation and be requested to provide necessary traffic enforcement.

Contact Person:

Hubert Ng, Manager of Transportation, 905-771-6501

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Report Approval:

Submitted by: Kelvin Kwan, Commissioner of Planning and Infrastructure Department

Approved by: Mary-Anne Dempster, City Manager

All reports are electronically reviewed and/or approved by the Division Director, Treasurer (as required), City Solicitor (as required), Commissioner, and City Manager. Details of the reports approval are attached.

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Background:

Residents of Lucas Street have raised concerns regarding vehicular speeding in the community. City staff have spent considerable effort collecting data and monitoring in the area in order to investigate the concerns and determine potential solutions. Figure 1 illustrates the location of the subject road segment.

Figure 1: Location of the Lucas Street road segment



Legend

 Lucas Street corridor (subject)

Lucas Street is designated a local, residential road in the City's Official Plan and extends from Trayborn Drive in the north, to Mill Street in the south. The width of the right-of-way on Lucas Street varies from 20 metres from Trayborn Drive to the north of Rumble Avenue, and 13 metres from the south of Rumble Avenue to Mill Street. The pavement width also varies from 8.5 metres to 7.5 metres-wide respectively. A sidewalk facility is provided along the east side of the road.

The posted speed limit on Lucas Street is 40 km/h; in its entirety, from Trayborn Drive in the north, to Mill Street in the south. Access to Lucas Street exists between near-by O.M. MacKillop Public School, St. Mary Immaculate Catholic School and Bradstock Park. Figure 2 illustrates the subject road segment and noted near-by facilities and park.

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Figure 2: Location of Lucas Street and noted near-by facilities and park



Speed investigations and enforcement indicate that motorists are generally complying with posted speed limits

Traffic volume and speed data was collected on Lucas Street, on a seasonal basis, from 2017 to 2019. Subsequent traffic engineering analyses were completed to validate traffic operational conditions. The results of those assessments indicate that the 85th percentile of vehicular speeds along Lucas Street are at reasonable levels relative to the posted speed limit. These results were found to be generally consistent over the years.

Temporary driver-speed-feedback signs (trailer-mounted) were deployed on Lucas Street in October 2018 to bring awareness to motorists about their traveling speeds. Post-mounted driver-speed-feedback signs were also deployed on Lucas Street in 2019-2020 (on site for longer duration than the temporary trailers noted above). The results of speed data downloaded from the speed signs were also consistent with the field observations and data that were previously collected.

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Staff have also previously notified York Regional Police (YRP) regarding resident concerns. On a number of occasions, YRP have enforced speeds on Lucas Street and have reported that there are no significant speeding concerns, consistent with the findings of analysis by staff.

The introduction of a Community Safety Zone is warranted for Lucas Street to support the safety of vulnerable users

Notwithstanding the findings noted above, based on the feedback received from residents and the findings of field investigations, opportunities to introduce a Community Safety Zone along Lucas Street were identified as there are a number of uses in the area that potentially generate more vulnerable road users (i.e. children, seniors, etc.).

Community Safety Zones are sections of roadway where the community has designated the safety of its children/citizens as paramount. Road signage is displayed to drivers to make them aware that they are within a Community Safety Zone and that traffic related offences committed within the zone are subject to increased fines under the Highway Traffic Act. As such, they are designed to calm traffic. In order to determine whether such a designation is appropriate for this area, staff have completed the required technical warrants for Lucas Street based on the Council-approved Community Safety Zone Policy, which was established based on the Ontario Traffic Manual and Highway Traffic Act.

The warrant analyses for a Community Safety Zone consists of two components; Warrant 1 - Designated Areas of Special Concern, and Warrant 2 - Safety Warrant. In order to meet the minimum requirements, both warrants are required to be satisfied.

Warrant 1 requires that the proposed Community Safety Zone be a location where special concerns related to public safety are obvious to road users. In this regard, O.M. MacKillop Public School directly fronts onto Lucas Street and is considered as a location of special concern. In addition, there is access to St. Mary Immaculate Catholic School and Bradstock Park located in the vicinity of Lucas Street; both of which draw more vulnerable road users to Lucas Street.

Warrant 2 consists of eight (8) key safety factors; such as geometry and traffic operating characteristics, which are scored individually for the subject roadway. A minimum score of fifteen (15) points is required to satisfy this warrant.

A review by staff has confirmed that the requirements of Warrants 1 and 2 have been satisfied and that a score of fifteen (15) points has been achieved for Warrant 2 (see Attachment 2 for the results). As both Warrants 1 and 2 have been fully satisfied, it is recommended that Lucas Street be designated as a Community Safety Zone.

The zone will comprise of eight (8) Community Safety Zone signs; four (4) signs in each direction and from the beginning through to the end of the zone. Additional speed limit

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signs will also be added, as required. Within this zone, fines for speeding infractions will be doubled.

Staff will continue to monitor Lucas Street and partner with YRP in order to ensure effectiveness of implementing of the Community Safety Zone

The City has partnered with YRP to maximize the effectiveness of Community Safety Zones. YRP will be notified by staff once the Community Safety Zone has been implemented for any necessary traffic enforcement. The public will also be made aware that all fines are doubled for any traffic violations that occur within a designated Community Safety Zone.

Upon the implementation of the recommended Community Safety Zone, staff will continue to monitor Lucas Street in order to determine the level of effectiveness of the above-noted measures.

It should be noted that the addition of a Community Safety Zone on Lucas Street would also allow the City to implement Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) at this location, should an ASE program be adopted by the City in the future.

Climate Change Considerations

The Community Safety Zone on Lucas Street will contribute to climate change mitigation by encouraging lower vehicular operating speeds through the doubling of traffic violation fines, and thereby helping to support lower GHG emissions.

Financial/Staffing/Other Implications:

The cost to install the signage for the Community Safety Zone is estimated to be approximately \$2,500. There is a provision in the Community Services Department's Maintenance and Operations Budget to accommodate this work.

Reference to Council's Strategic Priorities 2020-2022:

The recommendation of this report is consistent with Council's Strategic Priorities to create a "Strong Sense of Belonging", and to improve "Getting Around the City" through the implementation of the Community Safety Zone while ensuring the safe operation and movement of all users of Lucas Street.

Conclusion:

Based on the input received from residents, staff have investigated the opportunity to establish a Community Safety Zone along Lucas Street. Based on their analysis, staff recommend that Lucas Street be designated as Community Safety Zone (Attachment 1 - By-law 14-21) and that YRP be requested to provide necessary enforcement once this zone is established.

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Attachments:

The following attached documents may include scanned images of appendices, maps and photographs. If you require an alternative format please call the contact person listed in this document.

- Attachment 1: Proposed draft By-law 14-21
- Attachment 2: Community Safety Zone Warrant

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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	SRPI.21.017 – Ward 4 Lucas Street Community Safety Zone.docx
Attachments:	- SRPI.21.017- Attachment 1 By-law 14-21 Lucas Street Community Safety Zone Bylaw.docx - SRPI.21.017 – Attachment 2 Community Safety Zone Warrant.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Mar 23, 2021

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Dan Terziewski - Mar 17, 2021 - 4:57 PM

Paolo Masaro – Mar 17, 2021 – 5:25 PM

Kelvin Kwan - Mar 18, 2021 - 10:27 AM

David Dexter – Mar 18, 2021 – 10:30 AM

MaryAnne Dempster - Mar 23, 2021 - 2:24 PM