

# Town of Portugal Cove- St. Philip's

## **Speed Limit Policy**

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Town Council of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's the following policy was adopted on the 17 day of May 2016.

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### **1.0 TITLE**

1.1 This document shall be known and cited as the Speed Limit Policy.

### **2.0 DEFINITIONS**

For the purpose of this policy, unless otherwise stated, the following definitions shall apply:

2.1 "**Council**" shall mean the Town Council of Portugal Cove – St. Philip's.

2.2 "**Town**" shall mean the Town of Portugal Cove – St. Philip's.

2.3 "**85<sup>th</sup> Percentile Speed**" shall mean the maximum speed at which 85 per cent of the drivers are observed to travel at a particular location.

2.4 "**Design Speed**" shall mean the speed selected as a basis to establish appropriate geometric design elements for a particular section of road so that drivers can travel safely at that speed under ideal conditions.

2.5 "**Operating Speed**" shall mean the speed at which a driver is observed operating a vehicle at a particular location.

2.6 "**Playground**" shall mean recreational facilities utilized primarily by children. This includes outdoor playgrounds with play equipment, sports fields, ball diamonds and tot lots (areas with play equipment and benches/picnic tables).

2.7 "**Posted Speed Limit**" shall mean the speed prescribed for motor vehicles on a section of road by municipal by-law and signed accordingly.

2.8 "**Road Classification**" shall mean the classification by road function, which is in accordance with the Town's road classification plan.

2.9 **“School”** shall mean the educational institutions that are attended primarily by children. This includes elementary schools, middles schools and high schools. No distinction is made between public and private schools.

### **3.0 POLICY STATEMENT**

- 3.1 The intent of this policy is to ensure that safe speed limits are set and to strike a balance between a variety of objectives such as convenience, efficiency, energy conservation, and minimizing environmental impact.
- 3.2 The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for establishing and reviewing posted speed limits within, or in close proximity to, the Town of Portugal Cove-St. Phillip’s. Recommendations resulting from this policy are subject to the approval of jurisdiction having authority.

### **4.0 APPLICATION**

- 4.1 This policy shall apply to all roadways under the Town of Portugal Cove – St. Philip’s jurisdiction.

### **5.0 POLICY PROCEDURE**

#### **5.1 Setting Posted Speed Limits**

Speed Limits will be reviewed using the Transportation Association of Canada’s (TAC) Speed Limit Guidelines, calculation sheet attached. These guidelines will help determine if a speed limit change is warranted and what the new speed should be for the subject roadway.

The resulting speed limit may be set below the recommended speed limit when:

- Constrained by the physical characteristics of the road, such as the design speed
- Required for heightened safety in sensitive areas such as school and playground areas
- Required temporarily for safety in a construction zone
- The 85th percentile speeds are significantly lower than the recommended speed, or
- There is a significantly higher than normal frequency of, or severity of, collisions attributable to excessive speeds

Speed limits will be set between 40 km/h and 80 km/h in increments of 10 km/h.

The minimum length of a speed zone should be 500m.

For roadway passing through ***school frontage*** the following shall apply:

- Roadways with less than 2000 vehicles per day, a speed limit of 40 km/h should be applied to these areas at all times of the day.
- Arterial roadways and roadways with traffic volumes over 2000 vehicles per day should be considered for a part-time reduced speed zone (flashing 40 km/h zone).
- The 40 km/h speed limit would apply to the portion of roadway which is directly fronting the school property and includes a section 150 metres in either direction beyond the edge of the land designated as being for school use.
- The point beyond 150 metres from the edge of the school shall revert back to the speed limit that governed prior to entering the school zone. The reverted speed limit should not be more than 60 km/h.
- The 40 km/h zone may be extended if it results in an adjacent speed limit that is too short to adequately enforce.

## **5.2 Annual Review of Speed Limits**

The Town will undertake annual measurements of operating speeds at select locations on the Town road system.

Based on these measurements, the 85th percentile speeds will be compared with the speed limits to identify those locations with significant variance between these two speeds.

For locations where the 85th percentile speeds are significantly higher or significantly lower than the speed limit (more than 10 km/h higher or more than 10 km/h lower than the speed limit) a review of the speed limit will be undertaken using the methodology outlined within the Speed Limit Policy. Input from the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary (RNC) will also be requested to receive their experience in speed enforcement at the location and any general concerns.

Based on the review, Town staff may recommend one of the following courses of action:

- 1) No action is required
- 2) The operating speed is too high and needs to be controlled through one of the following measures:
  - a. Stepped up enforcement by the RNC
  - b. Use of other measures such as driver feedback signs
  - c. Introduction of design features aimed at reducing speeds and improving safety
- 3) The posted speed limit is too low and should be raised
- 4) The posted speed limit is too high and should be lowered

The results and recommendations of the annual review will be submitted to Council for consideration.

In situations in which the speed limits are to be recommended by staff for either lowering or increasing, the residents fronting onto the affected section of roadway will be notified of the recommendations prior to it being submitted to Council.

### **5.3 Requests by Members of the Public to Change Speed Limits**

A request by a member of the public to change the speed limit at a specific location on a Town of Portugal Cove-St. Phillip's road should generally be referred to the annual review.

The results and recommendations of the annual review, related to the specific location, will be communicated to the requestor and other interested parties, prior to it being submitted to Council.

When a signed petition is submitted of no less than 75 percent of the residents located along the affected road section, Town Council may direct that an individual review of the request be carried out by Town staff, without delaying it to the annual review.

In situations in which there is a proposed speed limit change, from the individual reviews, the residents fronting onto the affected road section will be notified of the staff recommendations prior to it being submitted to Council.

**6.0 REPEALS**

6.1 This policy rescinds all other policy on this subject matter.

**7.0 AMENDMENTS**

7.1 None.

**8.0 DATE EFFECTIVE**

8.1 May 17, 2016, Motion #2016-135.

Clear Sheet	<b>Automated Speed Limit Guidelines</b> FORM A - Automated Speed Limit Guidelines Spreadsheet			
	Name of Corridor: _____			
	Segment Evaluated: _____		to _____	
	Geographic Region: _____			
	Road Agency: _____			
	Road Classification: _____	Length of Corridor: _____	m	
	Urban / Rural: _____	Design Speed: (Required for Freeway, Expressway, Highway)	km/h	
	Divided / Undivided: _____	Current Posted Speed: (For information only)	km/h	
	Major / Minor: _____	Prevailing Speed: (85th Percentile - for information only)	km/h	
	# Through Lanes Per Direction: _____	Policy: (Maximum Posted Speed)		
	<b>RISK      Score</b>			
More...	<b>A1</b>	<b>GEOMETRY (Horizontal)</b>		
More...	<b>A2</b>	<b>GEOMETRY (Vertical)</b>		
More...	<b>A3</b>	<b>AVERAGE LANE WIDTH</b>		
More...	<b>B</b>	<b>ROADSIDE HAZARDS</b>		
More...	<b>C1</b>	<b>PEDESTRIAN EXPOSURE</b>		
More...	<b>C2</b>	<b>CYCLIST EXPOSURE</b>		
More...	<b>D</b>	<b>PAVEMENT SURFACE</b>		
More...	<b>E1</b>	<b>NUMBER OF INTERSECTIONS WITH PUBLIC ROADS</b>	<i>Number of Occurrences</i>	
		STOP controlled intersection		
		Signalized intersection		
		Roundabout or traffic circle		
		Crosswalk		
		Active, at-grade railroad crossing		
More...	<b>E2</b>	<b>NUMBER OF INTERSECTIONS WITH PRIVATE ACCESS DRIVEWAYS</b>	<i>Number of Occurrences</i>	
		Left turn movements permitted		
		Right-in / Right-out only		
More...	<b>E3</b>	<b>NUMBER OF INTERCHANGES</b>	<i>Number of Occurrences</i>	
		Number of interchanges along corridor		
More...	<b>F</b>	<b>ON-STREET PARKING</b>		

**Calculate Total Risk Score**

**Total Risk Score:**

**Recommended Posted Speed Limit (km/h):**

As determined by road characteristics

As determined by policy

The recommended posted speed limit may be checked against the prevailing speeds of the roadway and the road's safety performance.

**Comments:**

**FIGURE 6.1 – FORM A: DATA ENTRY AND AUTOMATED CALCULATION OF RECOMMENDED POSTED SPEED LIMIT**