

September 24, 2021

CL 18-2021, September 23, 2021

Hon. Caroline Mulroney
Minister of Transportation
Ministry of Transportation
5th Flr, 777 Bay St,
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

Re: Request to Review and Amend Section 128 (Rate of Speed) of the Highway Traffic Act

Regional Council, at its meeting held on September 23, 2021, passed the following motion:

WHEREAS street design for safe driving behaviour, which includes features such as narrow lane widths, is the most important factor in creating safe streets, but lowering vehicle speeds is another important tool to improve road safety; and

WHEREAS pedestrian and cyclist fatalities increase as vehicle speed goes up and research studies have found that higher speed leads to more collisions involving children, who are more often injured in pedestrian and cycling injuries and casualties and that children are usually injured mid-block, often on residential streets, and in front of their home or a park; and

WHEREAS municipal, provincial, state, and federal governments across North America have invested in active transportation, complete streets design, and healthy community initiatives which has resulted in an increased number of pedestrians and cyclists that need to coexist with vehicles on roads, placing more pressure on setting appropriate speed limits; and

WHEREAS several municipalities across North America, including Edmonton, Toronto, Seattle, Portland, New York and hundreds of others, have reduced speed limits on local roads.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Region of Niagara **SUPPORT** the motion brought forward by the City of St. Catharines and request the province (Ministry of Transportation Ontario) to review and amend Section 128 (Rate of Speed) of the Highway Traffic Act to adopt Vision Zero principles and reduce the statutory speed limit on a highway within a local municipality or within a built-up area from 50 kilometres per hour to 40 kilometres per hour; and

2. That this motion **BE CIRCULATED** to the local area municipalities.

Yours truly,



Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk

CLK-C 2021-151

cc: Local Area Municipalities
Association of Municipalities of Ontario