



Council Member Report

For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 27, 2019

Date: June 13, 2019

From: Mayor Lisa Helps

Subject: **UBCM motion to allow incorporated municipalities to institute safer speed zones in residential areas**

BACKGROUND

In the City of Victoria's 2019-2022 Strategic Plan, under **Strategic Objective #7, 'Sustainable Transportation'**, a key strategic action tasked to Council is to "**Lower speed limits on local neighbourhood streets to 30 km per hour**". In order for cities to be able to change speed zones en masse, an amendment to the Motor Vehicles Act is required. To that end, it is recommended that Council, with the City of Vancouver, co-sponsor a motion to UBCM to advocate for this change.

WHEREAS currently, the Motor Vehicle Act ("MVA") stipulates a speed limit of 50 kilometers per hour ("km/h") within city limits;

WHEREAS the probability of pedestrian survival is about 90% if struck by a motor vehicle travelling at 30 km/h, while survival is reduced to 20% if struck by a motor vehicle travelling at 50 km/h;

WHEREAS lower speed limits are more compatible with active transportation, and create safer, better engaged, healthier and more inclusive communities;

WHEREAS in 2015, the BC Road Safety Strategy set out the goal of zero traffic fatalities and serious injuries and discussed safe speeds. In 2016, the Provincial Health Officer's Annual Report also recommended a 30 km/h speed limit in urban areas;

WHEREAS in June 2016, as part of its position paper, Modernizing the BC Motor Vehicle Act, the British Columbia-based Road Safety Law Reform Group recommended: "A default provincial speed limit of 30 km/h for local (no centre line) streets should be included in the Motor Vehicle Act, with municipalities enabled to increase speed limits on local streets in a case by-case basis by by-law and posted signage.";

WHEREAS in 2018, the provincial government's B.C. Community Road Safety Toolkit recommended lower speed limits in downtown areas and residential roads; and under the Motor

Vehicle Act, changes to default speed limits require street-by-street, block-by-block posted signage which could otherwise incur significant expense for local governments;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure be asked to consider an amendment to the Motor Vehicle Act that would allow incorporated municipalities to institute blanket speed zones in residential areas.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council, with Vancouver, co-submit the above motion for consideration at UBCM, to be held in September, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Helps'.

Mayor Lisa Helps