



Administrative Report

To: Warden MacDonald and Members of Essex County Council

From: Jerry Behl, P.Eng., Manager, Transportation Planning and Development

Date: Wednesday, April 16, 2025

Subject: Intersection of County Road 20 and Lowes Side Road

Report #: 2025-0416-IPS-R10-JB

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide information on a review of safety and speed on County Road 20 and Lowes Side Road.

Background

At the regular meeting of Council held on July 17, 2024, County Council directed Administration to review traffic and pedestrian conditions at and near the intersection of County Road 20 and Lowes Side Road.

Notice of Motion 212-2024

"That Administration of the County of Essex complete a review of traffic and pedestrian conditions at and near the intersection of County Road 20 and Lowes Side Road; and,

That the County of Essex consider a reduction in the posted speed limit along County Road 20 from Lowes Side Road and southerly approximately 500 metres; and,

That the County of Essex consider installing signage indicating pedestrians crossing at the County Rd 20 at Lowes Side Rd intersection; and,

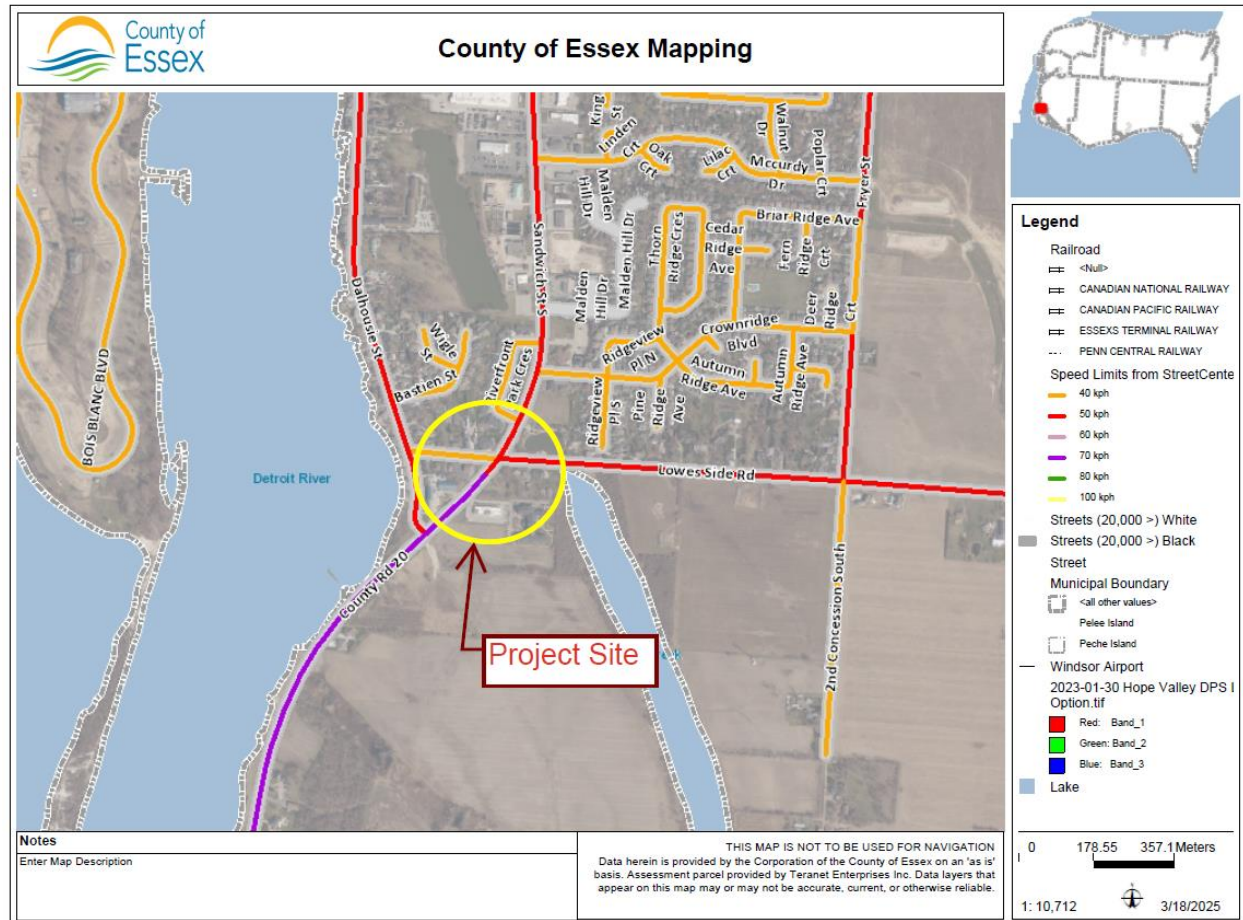
That the Administration communicate with the Town of Amherstburg, Infrastructure Services department as part of the review."

Discussion

Administration conducted a traffic operations and safety review of the intersection, which included an assessment of existing conditions, surrounding land use, current and posted speeds, collision data, and pedestrian crossing desire lines.

The location and speed limits are shown in **Figure 1**.

Figure 1



Administration from the County and the Town of Amherstburg met to discuss the request of Council, share information/concerns and confirm jurisdictions.

With respect to the speed limit study, the County follows the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) guidelines for "Establishing Posted Speed Limits", which considers:

- Vehicle speed
- Road geometry
- Pedestrian and cyclist exposure
- Roadside hazards
- Proximity of intersections
- Number of driveways

The guideline also requires professional judgement particular to traffic engineering with respect to human behavior, environmental conditions and practical feasibility.

The study area along County Road 20 is experiencing increased development: assisted living complex (680 County Road 20), pharmacy, family healthcare (721 County Road 20) and long-term care home (681 County Road 20), between Dalhousie Street and Lowes Side Road. Given the existing posted speed limits, surrounding land use and roadside environment, extending the 50 km/h posted speed southerly to 50m South of Dalhousie Street is appropriate. Further, maintaining the 70 km/h speed limit along County Road 20 south of Dalhousie Street is appropriate. This recommendation is supported by the Transportation Association of Canada Automated Speed Limit Guidelines.

With respect to the Town of Amherstburg responsibility, County Road 20, beginning at the southern limit of its intersection with Lowes Side Road, is a County Connecting Link. Therefore, the Town of Amherstburg has jurisdiction over this intersection and any decision to add pedestrian facilities would be made by the Town, with the associated costs being their responsibility.

Additional warning signage at the driveways of 680 and 681/721 County Road 20 stating "No Pedestrian Crossing" is not recommended at this time as there is no marked pedestrian facility to point to. However, warning signs may be considered in the future if the Town of Amherstburg constructs a pedestrian crossover or facility at the County Road 20 and Lowes Side Road intersection.

Financial Implications

The installation of appropriate speed signage along County Road 20, south of the intersection is estimated at a of cost approximately \$2,000, and will be installed by County maintenance staff.

This amount will be taken from the 2025 Road Safety budget.

Consultations

County Administration has consulted Administration from the Town of Amherstburg.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Working as Team Essex County	Growing as Leaders in Public Service Excellence	Building a Regional Powerhouse
☐ Scaling Sustainable Services through Innovation ☒ Focusing “Team Essex County” for Results ☐ Advocating for Essex County’s Fair Share	☐ Being an Employer with Impact ☒ A Government Working for the People ☒ Promoting Transparency and Awareness	☒ Providing Reliable Infrastructure for Partners ☒ Supporting Dynamic and Thriving Communities Across the County ☐ Harmonizing Action for Growth ☐ Advancing Truth and Reconciliation

Recommendation

That Essex County Council receive report number 2025-0416-IPS-R10-JB, Intersection of County Road 20 and Lowes Side Road as information

And

That Essex County Council direct administration to reduce the speed limit on County Road 20 from 70km/h to 50km/h between Lowes Side Road and 50m south of Dalhousie Street.

And

That by-law 2025-17 be adopted, amending By-law 26-2002 to Regulate Traffic and Parking on Highways within the Essex County Roads System, ‘Schedule H’ to reduce the speed on County Road 20 between Lowes Side Road and 50m south of Dalhousie Street.

Approvals

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Behl

Jerry Behl, P.Eng., Manager, Transportation Planning and Development

Concurred With,

Allan Botham

Allan Botham, P.Eng., Director, Infrastructure and Planning Services

Concurred With,

Sandra Zwiers

Sandra Zwiers, MAcc, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix	Title
N/A	N/A