

District of Barriere

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Request for Decision

Date: May 25, 2026	File: 530.20/Rpts
To: Council	From: Public Works Manager
Re: Proposed Reduction of Speed Limit in Teacher's Subdivision	
Recommendation: THAT Council direct Staff to reduce the speed limit within Teacher's Subdivision from 50 km/hr to 30 km/hr, which includes the installation of required signage.	

Purpose

For Council to consider decreasing the speed limit in the Teacher's Subdivision from 50 km/hr to 30 km/hr.

Background

The District has received complaints from residents within Teacher's Subdivision regarding vehicles travelling at excessive speeds along residential streets. Concerns raised include pedestrian safety, the presence of children in the neighbourhood, and general traffic calming within the subdivision. This area includes Bradford Road, Spruce Crescent, and Birch Lane.

Currently, the speed limit within the subdivision is 50 km/hr, which is the default municipal speed limit for local roads unless otherwise posted.

In 2025, the District implemented a pilot project in the Greentree Subdivision to reduce the speed limit from 50 km/hr to 30 km/hr. While formal traffic data has not yet been completed, observations and resident feedback indicate that the reduced speed zone has appeared to be somewhat successful in encouraging slower vehicle speeds and increasing driver awareness within the residential area.

Teacher's Subdivision has similar characteristics to Greentree subdivision, including local residential streets, pedestrian activity, and family-oriented neighbourhood use.

Staff has consulted with the RCMP regarding the proposed speed limit reduction. The detachment has advised that it has no objection to the proposed adjustment and supports measures intended to improve neighbourhood safety and traffic calming.

Summary

Staff recommends that Council consider implementing a reduced speed limit of 30 km/hr within Teacher's Subdivision as a traffic calming and neighbourhood safety measure.

Should Council support the reduction, Staff would proceed with:

- installation of new speed limit signage;
- public notification of the change;
- coordination with enforcement agencies as required; and
- monitoring of the effectiveness of the reduced speed zone.

The proposed reduction would align with traffic calming practices commonly used in residential neighbourhoods where pedestrian activity and community safety are priorities.

Benefits or Impact

General

- Increased safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and children within the neighbourhood;
- Reduced likelihood and severity of collisions;
- Improved neighbourhood livability and resident comfort;
- Consistency with the approach piloted in Greentree subdivision; and
- Increased driver awareness within residential areas.

Finances

Minor costs associated with the purchase and installation of updated speed limit signage. Funding to come from approved budget.

Strategic Impact

N/A

Risk Assessment

Compliance: The proposed speed limit reduction is consistent with the District's authority to regulate traffic on municipal roads through applicable traffic and streets bylaw. Consultation with the RCMP has been completed, and no concerns or objections have been identified regarding the proposed change.

Risk Impact: Maintaining the current 50 km/hr speed limit may continue to present risks related to pedestrian safety, particularly in a residential neighbourhood with children, pedestrians, and local traffic activity. Excessive vehicle speeds can increase both the likelihood and severity of collisions.

Reducing the speed limit to 30 km/hr is intended to mitigate these risks by encouraging lower vehicle speeds, improving driver awareness, and enhancing overall neighbourhood safety.

Internal Control Process: Staff are following standard processes.

Next Steps / Communication

- If approved, Staff will order the appropriate signage and begin the installation of regulatory signage at appropriate subdivision entry points and locations

- Public communication regarding the speed limit change
 - Coordination with RCMP for awareness and potential enforcement support
 - Ongoing monitoring of resident feedback and observed traffic behaviour to assess the effectiveness of the speed reduction
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Attachments

- N/A

Recommendation

THAT Council directs Staff to reduce the speed limit within Teacher's Subdivision from 50 km/hr to 30 km/hr, which includes the installation of required signage.

Alternative Options

1. Council could choose not to reduce the speed limit in the Teacher's Subdivision

Prepared by:

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Reviewed by:

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