



The Corporation of the
City of Sault Ste. Marie
COUNCIL REPORT

February 2, 2026

TO: Mayor Matthew Shoemaker and Members of City Council
AUTHOR: Maggie McAuley, Manager of Design and Transportation
Engineering
DEPARTMENT: Public Works and Engineering Services
RE: Community Safety Zones

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to address an outstanding Council resolution regarding Community Safety Zones.

Background

On October 1, 2024, Council passed the following resolution:

Whereas community safety zones are defined as segments of roadways where public safety is of special concern and may include roadways near parks/playgrounds, daycare centers, recreation areas, hospitals, senior centers/residences, and areas with a large concentration of pedestrian activity; and

Whereas Sault College enrollment has increased significantly in the last 10 years, increasing population and foot traffic in the area; and

Whereas a number of elementary schools have amalgamated, effectively creating super schools and/or schools with higher enrollment in the area; and

Whereas speeding has been identified as a major issue around the city. This is documented to be well over the posted 40 km/hr in many school zones including St Paul School (posting 59.5 km as 85th percentile speed) and Boreal French Immersion (posting 64.94 km as 85th percentile speed); and

Whereas this area has connections to the Hub Trail, new development, buildings housing seniors and citizens with disabilities, as well as many families;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that staff report back to Council regarding designating Northern Avenue from Sackville Road to Pine Street a Community Safety Zone; and regarding designating Pine Street from Northern Avenue to McNabb Street a Community Safety Zone.

Analysis

Community Safety Zones are segments of roadway where public safety is of special concern. Council may designate segments of roadway as Community Safety Zones by passing a municipal by-law. The rules of the road do not change in Community Safety Zones; however, fines are increased for traffic-related violations in these zones.

At the May 1, 2023 Council meeting, Council adopted the Community Safety Zone Policy. The policy assesses road segments based on relevant criteria, including the presence of community facilities, posted speed, number of lanes, average daily traffic, pedestrian facilities, and pedestrian volumes. The locations listed in the resolution, as well as two locations suggested by the public, were evaluated using the policy, and the results were presented to the Speed Management Taskforce, which recommended that all four locations be designated as Community Safety Zones.

The locations are:

- Northern Avenue from Pine Street to Sackville Road (commercial, community, and residential)
- Pine Street from Northern Avenue to McNabb Street (commercial, school)
- Fifth Line from Landslide Road to Connor Road (Hiawatha Highlands)
- Lower Lake Street from Queen Street to the south end (Bellevue Park)

An update to the traffic by-law No. 77-200 is required to include Community Safety Zones in the community.

The following text should be added to the “Definitions” section:

“Community Safety Zone” means a designated area of a roadway where public safety is of special concern.

The following text should be added to Part VI – Turning, Direction and Speed Regulations:

Community Safety Zones – Schedule “CC”

1. The Corporation shall erect signage in compliance with the *Highway Traffic Act* at the locations set out in Schedule “CC” to this by-law.
2. When official signs are on display in compliance with the *Highway Traffic Act*, the highways at the locations set out in Schedule “CC” to this by-law are thereby designated as community safety zones.

Add:

Schedule CC – Community Safety Zones

Designated for 24hours each day

| Street | From | To |
|---|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Northern Avenue East | Pine Street | Sackville Road/Grand Boulevard |
| Pine Street from to (commercial, school) | Northern Avenue East | McNabb Street |
| Landslide Road | Fifth Line East | Connor Road |
| Lake Street | Queen Street | South terminus |

Financial Implications

The financial implications related to this approval would be the cost of new signage. The required signage would cost approximately \$5,000 and covered under the traffic operations budget.

Strategic Plan / Policy Impact / Climate Impact

The recommendations of this request are linked to the quality of life focus area of the Corporate Strategic Plan.

Recommendation

It is therefore recommended that Council take the following action:

Resolved that the report of the Manager of Design and Transportation Engineering dated February 2, 2026 concerning Community Safety Zones be received and that the recommended amendments be approved.

An amendment to the Traffic By-Law will be brought to Council for approval at a later date.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie McAuley, P.Eng.

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