



TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH CARDINAL ACTION ITEM

Committee: Regular Council

Date: November 25, 2024

Department: Public Works

Topic: Heavy Truck Restrictions – Jochem Road

Purpose: To review potential measures to regulate heavy commercial vehicles on Jochem Road and choose a path forward.

Background: At the regular council meeting on October 28th, staff was directed to prepare a report on possible measures to be considered to regulate and restrict heavy truck traffic on Jochem Road.

Status Quo: This option is non-prohibitive in relation to heavy commercial vehicles using the road. Based on the traffic study conducted by the Greer Galloway Group, there would be some technical merit to reducing the speed limit to 60km/h given the current lane and shoulder widths. The outcome would be regulating all vehicle traffic, including heavy commercial, to a lower speed. Enforcement would be treated in the same manner as the rest of our road network. Financial impact is limited to signs posting a new speed limit. In addition, a digital speed and traffic counter could be erected on a more permanent basis as a monitoring mechanism.

General Restriction: This option is a prohibition on all heavy commercial vehicles from using the road. There would need to be a list of exclusions developed to permit activities such as road maintenance operations (ex. snow plowing, paving) and emergency response. In addition, outlining the situations when the prohibition would not apply such as delivery to or collection from premises on the road or in detour route situations. This could be very time consuming and difficult to regulate from both an education and enforcement perspective.

Restriction by Vehicle Type and Purpose: This option would be a targeted focus on prohibiting material aggregate haulers from using the road. This option will place the nearby quarry at a competitive disadvantage, create delivery inefficiencies and contribute to higher prices for those receiving aggregate materials.

It's of prime importance to keep the essential purpose of a transportation network in mind when considering a change. The purpose is to safely move people, goods and services efficiently and cost-effectively from their origin to destination. In addition, it's reasonable to think that no user of the road intentionally seeks to harm another user of the road. However, all users need to be accountable and responsible for their behaviour or actions while using the road.

Staff recommends remaining status quo on heavy commercial vehicles and are supportive to reducing the speed limit to 60km/h as a reasonable balance.

Policy Implications: The institution of any restriction or prohibition on heavy commercial vehicle use on the road would require the preparation and adoption of a bylaw that includes at a minimum: definitions, location, exceptions, enforcement and penalties.

Strategic Plan Implications: On the surface, the restricting or prohibiting of heavy commercial vehicles does not appear to align with the pillars of Economic Development and Growth or the Environment.

Financial Considerations: There are minimal costs associated with the placement of signage restricting or prohibiting heavy commercial vehicles. Determining the level of enforcement in gaining compliance will impact operating and legal expenses. Would fines be issued through Part 1 POA short form wording (tickets) or through Part 3 of the POA? Removing the ability from aggregate haulers to utilize the most efficient and cost-effective route will increase costs to the end users.

The Township receives annually, a portion of the levy charged to pit/quarry owners in our municipality based on the amount of material removed through the Aggregate Resources Trust. Below are the values received between 2021 to 2024.

2021 - \$25,365.08
2022 - \$28,715.34
2023 - \$42,903.95
2024 - \$29,674.71

Alternatives: Municipal Council could direct staff to prepare a bylaw to prohibit heavy truck traffic on Jochem Rd.

Recommendation: That Municipal Council remain status quo on heavy commercial vehicles using Jochem Road.



Director of Operations



Manager of Public Works