

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Small and Members of Council

From: Dwayne Pike, Chief of Police

Date: March 17, 2025

Subject: Willow Street/Townshend Ave Intersection – Traffic Control – Strategic Priorities – “Points to Capture”

The intersection at Townshend Avenue and Willow Street is currently controlled by a stop sign on Townshend Avenue. Also at this location is a crosswalk that traverses Willow Street and connects to the sidewalk that runs along Townshend Avenue. Further to the east is the intersection of Willow Street with Oceanview Drive and to the west is the intersection of Willow Street with Walter Purdy Avenue. Homes in these locations are well-situated as there are three schools in the nearby area: A high school, a junior high school and an elementary school, all within walking distance. During



the mornings, often at lunch and at the end of the school day, this area is often busy with students walking to the nearby schools, the closest of which is Amherst Regional High School. Students on the south side of Willow Street often use the sidewalk and crosswalk at Townshend Avenue. Students on the north side of Willow Street who are walking to the High School use the sidewalk on Willow Street which runs along the north-east side of the street. The area from the crosswalk until past the intersection of Willow and East Pleasant Street is also designated as a school zone, meaning that if a child is within 30m of the road, motorist must slow from 50kph to 30kph. This is in place 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year, as long as a child is in the area.

With recent housing developments in the area, there are some concerns that traffic patterns and volumes may change and as a result, pedestrian and motorist safety may be impacted. While there is an expectation that there will be an increase in both pedestrian and vehicle traffic, the current situation indicates that this is not an issue. With the exceptions of the morning and afternoon heavier volume of traffic, this area is not an exceptionally busy intersection and the 3-way stop sign as a traffic control is working well. The stand-alone crosswalk also ensures that pedestrian traffic is clearly visible and observed by motorists.

Our intentions are to monitor this area as things progress and, if required, make changes to ensure that safety is not compromised. This may include a change in the type of traffic control that would be better suited to any change in traffic patterns or volumes or even the addition of traffic/pedestrian controls at other locations in the nearby area.

As Traffic Authority for the Town of Amherst, I am recommending that there be no changes to this intersection at this time, but recommend we continue to monitor for any developing risks or concerns.