

# Reduced speed limit could make driving on Coverdale Road more dangerous: province

HF- Transportation

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Government denies request to reduce speed limit for a stretch of busy Riverview road

actually make the roadway more dangerous.

Town council asked the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to re-evaluate the speed limit on the stretch of Coverdale Road between Patricia Drive and Townsend Avenue at the west end of town.

As it stands now, the speed limit for inbound drivers drops from 70 km/h to 50 km/h at Townsend Avenue. The town wanted the speed limit in the specified kilometre-long stretch to be set at 60 km/h to promote a more

gradual transition as traffic enters the more urban area, said Colin Smith, Riverview's chief administrative officer.

Wayne Bennett, the town councillor who represents the area, said he's been pushing the province to reduce the limit for 12 years and is "very, very disappointed" with the latest refusal. He said the area has become much more populated, and popular for young families.

PLEASE SEE →SPEED, A4

TOM BATEMAN  
TIMES & TRANSCRIPT

A request to reduce the speed limit on a stretch of Coverdale Road in Riverview has been denied by the province, which said the slower speed may



An existing sign along Coverdale Road, warning drivers to slow down from 70 km/h to 50 km/h. PHOTO: TOM BATEMAN/TIMES & TRANSCRIPT

## Province will not change limit

### SPEED →A1

"We get a lot of complaints coming from people coming off Patricia onto Coverdale Road who feel the speed is too fast to make that turn in time - and it is a bit of a turn," Smith said on Monday.

Because Coverdale Road is also provincial Route 112, any change in speed limit must be approved by the Department of Transportation.

"We can't make any modifications to anywhere along Coverdale and Hillsborough Road without their blessing," Smith said.

In a Feb. 7 letter to Riverview Mayor Ann Seamans, Transportation Minister Bill Fraser said a review of the situation determined the town's request wasn't warranted - in part because it's unlikely drivers would obey the reduction, making the roadway even more dangerous.

The review considers factors like road and shoulder width, traffic volume, and roadside development, in an approach based on national guidelines established by the Transportation Association of Canada, said department spokesman Jeff Hull.

If a speed limit is lower than practical for the area, drivers tend to show little respect for the posted speed and the result is a range of vehicle speeds, Fraser wrote.

That causes driver frustration, unsafe passing and a false sense of security for residents who believe the new,

lower limit will be followed, the minister said.

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"A reduction in the posted speed could have a negative impact on traffic flow, resulting in decreased safety," he said.

But Bennett said it's already common to see cars travel as much as 10 or 15 km/h faster than the existing 70 km/h limit.

"The challenge is you have a resident who initiated the complaint and you call and explain to them, 'Well, that's the speed people are going so we need to have the speed limit at what they are going,'" Smith said.

"It doesn't sit well with them.... They are looking at it from [drivers] are not following the speed limit properly or there should be more enforcement."