

NOISE ATTENUATION

Issue

Administration is preparing to launch a public awareness campaign regarding noise attenuation and is proposing a one (1) year sound pressure level meter pilot, following Traffic Bylaw amendments.

Motion Proposed by Administration

That a one (1) year noise attenuation pilot be approved and Administration directed to bring forward the required traffic bylaw revisions to the November 25, 2024 Regular Council Meeting.

Report, Analysis and Financial Implications

During the March 11, 2024 Regular Council meeting the following motion was made:

That Administration be directed to on-ramp to the 2025 budget process Option 1 - Education, regarding noise attenuation for consideration with other priorities at the time the budget is debated and come forward with proposals for bylaw revisions that synchronize with the City of Calgary's Traffic Bylaw regarding objectionable noise.

Okotoks Municipal Enforcement (OME) has collaborated with the Community Engagement (CE) Business Centre to bring forward Option 1 chosen by Council regarding community engagement on noise adding to the existing message: *Okotoks is Kind*. The campaign will commence in Q1 2025 and will include education about the Town Traffic Bylaw, Community Standards Bylaw, the *Alberta Traffic Safety Act*, the implications of producing objectionable noise, and how a noise complaint may be reported. The costs associated with the public awareness campaign can be managed within the current OME operating budget.

The City of Calgary is presenting amendments to their Traffic Bylaw to their Community Development Committee on September 12, 2024 and will present the same to their Council by September 23, 2024. Administration advises that Okotoks Council place a hold on bylaw amendments at this time until further proposals for bylaw revisions that synchronize with the City of Calgary's newly amended Traffic Bylaw regarding objectionable noise can be brought forward.

The City of Calgary is launching a data driven approach using a costly noise monitoring system to guide a Traffic Safety Team. Administration has researched such an approach and due to the size of the Town and limited number of reported vehicle noise complaints, do not propose this option at this time. Therefore, research has been conducted into sound pressure level meters implemented by the City of Red Deer who have found the Quest Sound Detector SD-200 meters to be effective in enforcing their Community Standards Bylaw related to vehicle noise disruptions, with tickets rarely going to court. They believe they have had three trials related to vehicle noise violations, with only one case being dismissed due to an

oversight. The subjectivity of the testing can be easily explained roadside by officers. The City of Red Deer believes the sound level meters, proper training, and their process adds legitimacy to the ticketing which rarely gets challenged. The success rates of these devices, as well as the research conducted on further devices is found in Attachment 1.

To support the one (1) year noise attenuation pilot, Administration will procure one (1) sound pressure level meter to measure the decibel level of noise in alignment with future Traffic Bylaw amendments at a cost of \$5,000.00 which will include peace officer training on the device which may or may not include contracting representatives from the City of Red Deer for such training. The costs associated with the purchase of the equipment can be managed within the current OME operating budget.

Strategic Plan Goals

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Responsibly Managed Growth	<input type="checkbox"/>	Demonstrated Environmental Leadership
<input type="checkbox"/>	Strong Local Economy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Enhanced Culture & Community Health
<input type="checkbox"/>	Organizational Excellence		

Equity/Diversity/Inclusivity Impacts and Strategy

n/a

Environmental Impacts

n/a

Governing Policies/Bylaws/Legislation or Agreements

Government of Alberta Traffic Safety Act

Bylaw 10-10 Traffic Bylaw

Bylaw 31-23 Community Standards Bylaw

Community Engagement Strategy

A public awareness campaign will accompany the one (1) year noise attenuation pilot and will be facilitated by Community Engagement in collaboration with Municipal Enforcement.

Alternatives for Consideration

n/a

CAO Comments

The community regularly raises concerns on two issues impacting them: 1) speeding of vehicles and 2) excessive noise of vehicles. This pilot will attempt to have the equipment procured and public participation ready for next year's summer season which is when the largest volume of public discussion occurs on noisy vehicles.

Attachment(s)

1. Three Options to Measure Vehicle Noise

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