

SPEED REDUCTION ON 48TH STREET EAST

Issue

Concern from residents with property bordering 48th Street East has initiated the review and recommendation to lower the current speed limit of 80 km/h to 60 km/h.

Motion Proposed by Administration

That the speed limit along 48th Street East between Green Haven Drive and 338th Avenue East be lowered to 60 km/h.

Report, Analysis and Financial Implications

The recent annexation has led to the Town acquiring the section of 48th Street East between 338th Avenue East and Green Haven Drive. This secondary roadway borders developments in Air Ranch/Ranchers Rise and Drake Landing. The current speed limit of 80 Km/h predates the residential developments closely bordering this roadway. Complaints and concerns from local residents regarding safety of their back yards has initiated the review and recommendations detailed in this report

Municipal Enforcement and Engineering staff have investigated several citizen complaints regarding this section of roadway and identified the following factors which contribute to the proposed motion:

- 1) The current speed limit of 80 km/h on this section of roadway was established long before there were adjacent residential developments. This road would have simply fallen under the category of secondary highway and defaulted to 80 km/h.
- 2) Engineering staff have advised the slope adjacent to the Air Ranch/Ranchers Rise properties backing onto 48th Street is 20-25% (location dependant) making them reasonably recoverable for an errant vehicle. The current distance from the road to the residential properties (described as a clear zone or recovery zone) is 9m, which meets the minimum “clear zone” distance of 10m as recommended in the *Alberta Infrastructure Highway Geometric Design Guide*. However, the clear zone is simply from the motorist’s point of view. We must also consider residents who expect to use their yards in safety and cannot rely on vehicle recovery standards alone. It can be deduced from the Geometric Design Guide that a reduction in vehicle speeds will decrease suggested *clear distance* and logically the risk of an errant vehicle reaching the rear yard of Air Ranch/Ranchers Rise and Drake Landing residents. In addition, reducing vehicle speeds on this section of roadway would decrease vehicle-generated noise, which is also an ongoing concern for abutting residents (see attached pictometry images).
- 3) Reducing the speed limit on 48th Street East would make this road consistent with neighbouring Range Road 293 (32nd Street East) northbound from 338th Avenue, which is currently 60 km/h. It should be noted that Range Road 293 does not have residential yards bordering the roadway as does 48th Street East.
- 4) As indicated in the attached photo, there are sections of 48th Street East which are not in ideal condition. There is no discernible centerline or visible shoulder line and the pavement itself is in need of repair (see attached google map images).

- 5) The recent opening of Milligan Drive to 48th Street East has significantly increased the amount of daily traffic utilizing 48th Street East as an entrance/exit to the east side of our community.
- 6) Several complaints regarding the danger of vehicle speeds to children playing in backyards have been received from residents bordering 48th Street East (example attached).
- 7) The financial costs supporting this speed change is minimal and covered within current approved budget.

A map indicating the proposed change as well as current Okotoks speed limits is attached.

Strategic Plan Goals

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Manage Community Growth	<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide Strong Governance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide Quality Community Infrastructure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Community
<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintain Organizational Excellence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Foster Economic Vitality
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Promote Environmental Stewardship

Governing Policies/Bylaws/Legislation or Agreements

Section 108(1)(e) of the Alberta *Traffic Safety Act* provides that:

“In accordance with the following, a road authority may prescribe speed limits that are different from the speed limits established under section 106 or 107:

(e) in the case of a highway in respect of which a road authority may prescribe speed limits and for which a speed limit is prescribed under this section or section 106, the road authority may for all or any portion of that highway prescribe a lower maximum speed limit by erecting signs along the highway setting out the lower speed limit;”

Public Engagement/Communication Strategy

n/a

Alternatives for Consideration

n/a

CAO Comments

I support this speed limit reduction.

Attachment(s)

1. Overhead pictometry images indicating road/property distance
2. Google Street View images showing road condition
3. Google Street View images showing proximity to residential yards
4. Resident complaint email
5. Proposed speed limit reduction map

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