
Subject: Email - Communication - James Kreuger - Traffic Noise and Loud Vehicles - File CK 375-2
Attachments: standing_policy_committee_on_transportation.docx

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Thursday, July 1, 2021 12:06 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - James Kreuger - Traffic Noise and Loud Vehicles - File CK 375-2

--- Replies to this email will go to [REDACTED] ---

Submitted on Thursday, July 1, 2021 - 12:05

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Date Thursday, July 01, 2021
To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
First Name James
Last Name Kreuger
Phone Number
Email [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED] University Drive, [REDACTED]
City Saskatoon
Province Saskatchewan
Postal Code S7N [REDACTED]
Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable)
Subject Traffic Noise and Loud Vehicles
Meeting (if known) Standing Policy Committee on Transportation
Comments

A docx version of this letter is also attached. thank you for your consideration

Standing Policy Committee on Transportation
City of Saskatoon

July 1, 2021

Dear Sirs/Madams,

RE: Traffic Noise and Loud Vehicles

My wife and I recently moved to Saskatoon and we are impressed with the beauty and access to green space that this city has to offer. The Meewasin Valley Trail, city parks and the river-side developments are truly remarkable and we are thankful that the city has made these a priority.

However, I write to you today concerning another matter: traffic noise and, in particular, extremely loud vehicles. I realize that ambient traffic noise is an unavoidable reality of urban life and I take no issue with that. After nearly thirty years of living in the Nunavut Territory, I find the sounds of the city exciting, exotic and a reminder that retirement is an adventure. The noise that concerns me is caused by a number of individual trucks, cars, and motorcycles that have modified their muffler systems to increase, rather than suppress, their engine noise. Broadway Avenue leading to and across the Broadway Bridge is a popular route for cruising and, as our home is adjacent, we notice certain vehicles that rev their engines to create extreme noise from 12th Street down and across the bridge. The noise increase is jarring to residents and detracts from the peace and beauty of the river-adjacent public green spaces.

I understand that the city police have more urgent duties than monitoring and enforcing the city noise bylaw. Instead, I am suggesting that Saskatoon approach the problem in much the same way that it has dealt with traffic light violations, that is, by using cameras. Acoustic cameras, or noise radar, have been researched or adopted by some cities as a way to reduce this unnecessary noise pollution and I am asking Saskatoon to consider doing the same. As the system could generate income through fines assessed, the initial cost would soon be offset by the noise violators themselves. Hopefully, they would soon tire of funding this traffic noise reduction program and get their vehicles fixed.

I have attached a number of links to news articles which report the testing of acoustic cameras in Europe and Asia, as well as in Canada. I have also attached two pdf links to studies that look at acoustic camera traffic noise monitoring.

I offer this suggestion in the spirit of civic engagement and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

James Kreuger

Web Links to Articles on Traffic Noise Monitoring with Acoustic Cameras

1. Noise-control technology now on Edmonton streets, listening and watching. CBC News, August 15, 2018.
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/edmonton-photo-radar-noise-monitoring-cameras-1.4787069>
2. Edmonton to crack down on loud vehicles with photo radar-style tech. CTV News, August 18, 2018.
<https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/edmonton-to-crack-down-on-loud-vehicles-with-photo-radar-style-tech-1.4058257>
3. 'Acoustic cameras' tested in bid to cut noisy vehicles. BBC News, June 8, 2019.
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-48564995>
4. Paris suburb pioneers 'noise radar' to fine roaring motorcycles. Reuters, August 30, 2019.
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-france-noise-motorcycles-idUSKCN1VK1AA>
5. Acoustic Cameras are being Trialled on UK Roads. November 21, 2019.
<https://www.visordown.com/news/general/acoustic-cameras-are-being-trialled-uk-roads>
6. Paris is testing "noise radar" to automatically ticket loud cars. Motor Authority. September 3, 2019.
https://www.motorauthority.com/news/1124883_paris-is-testing-noise-radar-to-automatically-ticket-loud-cars
7. Major cities are introducing noise radars that automatically issue fines to loud vehicles to combat noise pollution. Business Insider, September 5, 2019. <https://www.businessinsider.com/major-cities-introducing-noise-radars-to-fine-loud-vehicles-2019-9>

8. Sound radar suggested as traffic noise concerns surge in the Beltline. CTV News, August 17, 2020.
<https://calgary.ctvnews.ca/sound-radar-suggested-as-traffic-noise-concerns-surge-in-the-beltline-1.5068414>
9. 'Noise Cameras' are Coming Soon to Catch Illegally Noisy Cars. November 11, 2020.
<https://www.sytner.co.uk/news/acoustic-cameras-coming-soon/>
- 10 Taiwan to use acoustic cameras to catch traffic noise violators next year. Taiwan News, November 17, 2020.
<https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/4055517>

Efficacy Studies on Acoustic Radar and Traffic Noise Monitoring

Czyżewski, A. (2020). Estimating Traffic Intensity Employing Passive Acoustic Radar and Enhanced Microwave Doppler Radar Sensor.
<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjYsYvWrsLxAhUMQ80KHSImAhIQFjAFegQIBhAD&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.mdpi.com%2F2072-4292%2F12%2F1%2F110%2Fpdf&usg=AOvVaw2IXXuInVlgxUhrXpR8OJ67>

Yueyue Na, Yanmeng Guo, Qiang Fu, Member, IEEE, and Yonghong Yan. (2015). An Acoustic Traffic Monitoring System: Design and Implementation
https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Yueyue-Na/publication/303407737_An_Acoustic_Traffic_Monitoring_System_Design_and_Implementation/links/5742512408ae9ace84187bab/An-Acoustic-Traffic-Monitoring-System-Design-and-Implementation.pdf?origin=publication_detail

