



Walking Saskatoon Society Inc.

An Advocacy Group for Pedestrians in Saskatoon
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November 1, 2021

Members of the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation
City Hall, City of Saskatoon
222 3rd Avenue North
Saskatoon, SK, S7K 0J5

Dear Councillors,

We are writing in regarding the School, Playground, and Senior Zones aspect of the Residential Speed Limit Review. Our mission is to work towards an improved pedestrian experience, and so we are in support of improved pedestrian infrastructure and policies. Given the risks of severe injury or death that face pedestrians young and old in particular, improvements in safety towards a goal of zero injuries and should be prioritized (as per Vision Zero). The issue of safety around schools, playgrounds, and senior zones touches on our organizational values regarding health and social equity.

We generally support the recommendations presented to bring Saskatoon's Reduced Speed Limits for Schools policy into alignment with TAC guidelines, but also caution against strict implementation that does not consider context or existing concerns raised by residents through processes such as the Neighbourhood Traffic Review. For example, for some roadways next to a school there may not be an entrance, but a high volume of pedestrian and school-related vehicular traffic would arguably warrant School Zone designation. We do not support the removal of school zones from high schools.

In addition, some of the countermeasures considered in lieu of speed limit zones for Seniors would also be of benefit in school and playground zones, as they will improve visibility of children and youth who may not be readily seen by drivers. Local needs for these specific measures may be identified through NTRs, but may require additional consultation with school councils and parents.

Regards,

Warrick Baijous
Walking Saskatoon