

Inquiry – Councillor Z. Jeffries (January 28, 2019) Safety of Properties and Pedestrians near Corner of Patrick Crescent and Muzyka Road

ISSUE

Concerns have been expressed regarding the safety of properties and pedestrians on or near the corner of Patrick Crescent and Muzyka Road in the Willowgrove Neighbourhood. What approach is the City of Saskatoon taking to improve safety at this particular intersection?

BACKGROUND

At its January 28, 2019 City Council meeting, Councillor Jefferies made the following inquiry:

“Would administration please report back on options to ensure the safety of properties and pedestrians near the corner of Patrick Crescent and Muzyka Road near Brace Cove. Jersey barriers at this location were removed and this has created a situation that is less safe, especially during icy road conditions.”

The south intersection of Patrick Crescent and Muzyka Road is a three-legged intersection with stop signs assigning right-of-way to Muzyka Road. A history of traffic calming and control devices previously installed at this intersection is included in Appendix 1.

CURRENT STATUS

City Council, through Bylaw No. 8174, The City Administration Bylaw has delegated authority to the Administration for traffic calming measures and traffic control devices. As such, the Administration has been implementing different measures to address concerns at this intersection by using boulders and temporary concrete jersey barriers. However, based on more recent feedback and discussion with affected property owners (see Appendix 2), the Administration is proceeding to further improve safety at the intersection by:

- Maintaining the existing boulders;
- Removing the temporary concrete jersey barriers; and
- Implementing a raised crosswalk at the east leg of the intersection.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Based on a review of the Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) collision data (2013-2017), zero collisions were recorded at this intersection. However, this collision data does not reflect the incidents that have resulted in private property damage without a damage claim on the vehicle.

It is important to note this is not a typical traffic collision safety concern related to the design of the roadway or traffic control devices; rather, this is a private property damage complaint arising from drivers that are:

- Ignoring existing traffic control devices;
- Losing control of their vehicle and/or failing to operate their vehicle safely; and/or
- Driving faster than road conditions suggest as appropriate.

Given the unpredictable driver behavior at this location, it is difficult to engineer a solution to eliminate collisions. A solution that may work at a particular three-legged intersection may not be successful at another. Therefore, each situation must be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Nonetheless, the Administration reviewed various options to mitigate the safety concerns at the south intersection of Patrick Crescent and Muzyka Road. Appendix 3 provides additional information on the advantages, disadvantages, and specific comments relative to each option.

The Administration will improve this intersection by keeping the existing boulders, removing the temporary concrete barriers and installing a raised crosswalk. The introduction of a raised crosswalk will improve the safety of all road users at the intersection by raising awareness of the pedestrian activity and improving stop compliance.

NEXT STEPS

- The Administration will inform key stakeholders about the safety improvements planned for this intersection.
- The costs for these improvements are estimated at \$10,000 and will be included in the 2020-2021 Capital program.

APPENDICES

1. History of Traffic Devices
2. April 17, 2019 Site Meeting Summary
3. Options Considered

REPORT APPROVAL

Written by: Mariniel Flores, Transportation Engineer, Transportation
Reviewed by: Nathalie Baudais, Senior Transportation Engineer, Transportation
David LeBoutillier, Engineering Manager, Transportation
Jay Magus, Director of Transportation
Approved by: Angela Gardiner, General Manager, Transportation & Construction
Department