

April 23, 2019

City Council
City of Regina
Queen Elizabeth Court
2476 Victoria Avenue
PO Box 1790
Regina, SK Canada S4P 3C8

Dear Mayor Fougere and City Council Members,

It has come to my attention that the School Zone speed and hours of enforcement is being reviewed. I would like to address this issue and bring forward some further information as it is my belief that good decisions are founded on proper information.

In the past few years there has been considerable focus on traffic speed and for this discussion, within school zones. The simple prospect of a vehicle-pedestrian accident within a school zone is a horrific thought and we need to do what we can to avoid or minimize and hopefully eliminate such an occurrence. There are a number of factors at play here and I would like to bring to your attention the ones that I feel that are important.

1. The location of a school is important for a number of factors. Ease of access for the students and parents dropping off or picking up students is important and often you see schools on major roadways. However this ease of access creates an inherently dangerous situation wherein the higher number of vehicles travelling on these major roadways dramatically increases the potential for an accident. If the focus is to reduce the incidence of a vehicle-pedestrian accident in a school zone then this needs to be seriously looked at

My suggestion would be to locate schools no closer than 1 block from any major roadway.

2. The faster the speed, the longer the reaction time and the more physical damage there is in the event of a collision. Slowing down the traffic is important. A review of the 10 largest cities in Saskatchewan shows that 6 have 30 km/h speed limits in their school zones.

I would suggest we follow suit with the majority here and reduce the speed limit to 30 km/h in all school zones.

3. The hours of enforcement needs a serious review.

As a student in the 60's and 70's there were children at the school playgrounds a lot of the time. With computers, games and smartphones the activities of children and young people are changing. You don't see children at the school playgrounds nearly as much, in fact you barely see anyone at the school playgrounds at all outside of immediate school hours. Times are changing.

Very simply what are the school hours and when are children going to and from the school? Are there children going to school at 7:00 or 8:00 or whatever time? If Elementary school starts at 8:53 am a 1 hour window would seem adequate in the morning and if school ends at 3:37 pm a 1 and one half hour window would seem to be adequate. Hopefully high school age students would be more traffic aware and the risk factor should be much lower in a high school area but for ease of acceptance let's make it all the same.

What are the other cities doing? As Of August 2018, Saskatoon and Prince Albert are 8:00 am - 5:00 pm and Lloydminster may be changing to these hours also. Moose Jaw is 8:00 am - 6:00 pm, Yorkton and Swift Current are 8:00 am - 8:00 pm, North Battleford is 8:00 am - 10:00 pm, and Estevan and Weyburn are 24 hours. What really matters is what makes the most sense. We are seeing speeds reduced to 30 km/h in school zones over the years and we need to look at the hours in the same manner, what makes sense. What are there reduced speed limits in place when there are no children in the school yards?

I would suggest that the hours be from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. This is a reasonable time frame and is in-line with the other 2 largest cities.

4. The days of the year that the school zone speed limits are in place also needs to be reviewed and again, keeping in mind the purpose of the reduced speed limit is to reduce the potential for a vehicle-pedestrian accident. And again when are the children going to and from the school and what are other cities doing?

If there is no school and no children or at least very few children using the school playgrounds why do we need to have reduced speed limits in place. If the answer is that it is the safest thing to do then we need to look at reducing the speed limit on all residential streets. Common sense needs to prevail.

Monday to Friday, September 1st - June 30th makes sense and is what Saskatoon does.

5. Travelling through some school zones I see a tremendous amount of issues with the obstruction of the view for driving motorists. Overhanging trees, parked vehicles, other street signs and other things in the area need to be looked at. If you can't easily see the school zone sign or worse yet a child on the sidewalk this is a great concern. We need to look at keeping the line of sight open and

clear. Trees in these areas need to be either removed or trimmed well. There should be no vehicles parked on the street in a school zone and this should extend far past the school zone to provide a clear line of sight. If you have a bunch of other signs in the area then the focus of a School Zone gets lost in the sign maze. Limit other signs in these areas. However, we also need to be able to drop children off at school and accommodation for buses and cars needs to be kept in mind.

Let's take a good look in each school zone and see what we can do to make it "cleaner".

6. Proper signage is important. There are new flashing LED signs available that stand out and will get a drivers attention. We need to keep up with technological advances and especially when it relates to the safety of our children. Have them active only when the reduced speed zone is in effect for maximum effect.

SGL has installed speed cameras in some school zones in an effort to reduce speeding motorists. In talking with many people, school zones are often overlooked and especially on busy streets like north Broad Street. If SGL is spending money to install speed cameras to promote safety in a school zones maybe they should be approached to pay for these new flashing LED signs. The camera is an "after the fact" solution, something like closing the barn door once the horse is out. It really doesn't make the driver slow down until maybe the next time. A flashing LED School Zone sign would help to slow down drivers before there may be an accident.

I have attached a couple of flashing LED sign ideas and hopefully the City will contact SGL to see if they really want to promote safety in School Zones and install these types of signs or the City will take it upon themselves to install these type of signs.

7. Another changing factor in city is the number of drivers coming from other countries. In speaking with people that deal with and have spoken to many drivers that have come here from other countries the comment is always that we have so many rules here. Yes we do and there are more laws and rules being created all the time. The police and government always tell us ignorance of the law is no excuse. Okay so what is the law and how do we find out? The answer is driver training. Some countries have lots of rules and some have very few.

I understand that this is not in the jurisdiction of the City of Regina however I would respectfully suggest that the City approaches SGL and the Provincial Government to suggest this change and make driver training mandatory for all new immigrants to improve the safety of our children and other drivers in the city and province.

We need to keep our children safe in the school zones but we need to apply some common sense. Having reduced speed limits of 30 km/h may not sit well with everyone but enforcing it when there are clearly no children in the school yards will make drivers less likely to comply during these times. If they aren't complying then they may just ignore the reduced speed at other times out of a bad habit. Make the rules fair and reasonable and you will get far better acceptance.

Although I currently reside outside of Regina I have been a long time resident of Regina. I work in the city and I often drive down Dewdney Avenue east by Judge Bryant School.

I would be happy to discuss this further if anyone would like to.

Respectfully,

Terry Leigh

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School Zones in Saskatchewan

10 largest cities

As of August 2018

City	Speed Limit	Hours	Days	Notes
Saskatoon	30 km/h	8:00 am - 5:00 pm	Monday - Friday, Sept 1st - June 30th	
Regina	40 km/h	8:00 am - 10:00 pm	365 days per year	
Prince Albert	30 km/h	8:00 am - 5:00 pm	Sept 1st - June 30th	
Moose Jaw	40 km/h	8:00 am - 6:00 pm	365 days per year	
Yorkton	40 km/h	8:00 am - 8:00 pm	365 days per year	
Swift Current	40 km/h	8:00 am - 8:00 pm	365 days per year	
North Battelford	30 km/h	8:00 am - 10:00 pm		
Estevan	30 km/h	24 hours	365 days per year	
Weyburn	30 km/h	24 hours	365 days per year	
Lloydminster	30 km/h	8:00 am - 9:30am & 11:30 am - 1:00 pm & 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Monday - Friday, Sept 1st - June 30th	There is a proposal to change it to 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.