

## MUNICIPAL BRIEFING NOTE

### 9<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE NORTH COMMERCIAL TRUCK ROUTE, REGINA SK

**August 27, 2020**

**Mayor Michael Fougere**

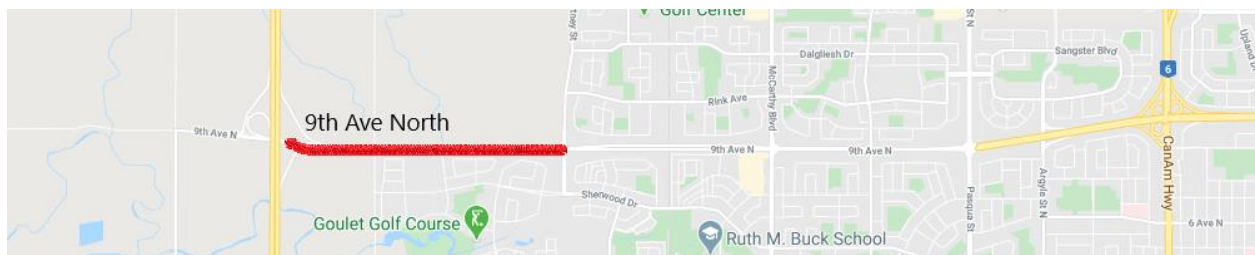
**City of Regina**

**City Hall**

**2476 Victoria Ave, Regina, SK S4P3C8**

**Dear Mayor, Fougere**

On August 11, 2020, the Saskatchewan Trucking Association (STA) was approached by Regina's Ward 9 City Councilman, Jason Mancinelli, about removing the portion of 9th Ave North (highlighted in red) as a commercial truck route. We quickly organized a meeting with Carrier Members of the STA, who would be impacted by such a decision.



## CITY OF REGINA BACKGROUND

On August 14, 2020, the STA accompanied by Members of the Association met with Jason Mancinelli of Ward 9 to exchange information. From the City Councillor perspective, the stretch of 9<sup>th</sup> Ave N coming off the Bypass is a dangerous stretch of road, in poor shape and is only single lane. Mr. Mancinelli states there are no shoulders on the road and that it is close to a residential area. Residents of the area have begun to make traffic noise complaints.

Since the completion of the Regina Bypass, the STA was also informed that the truck traffic count has increased from 75 units per day in 2017 to 175 units per day in 2020. Commercial vehicles are travelling in the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile for speed due to travelling and merging off the Bypass.

Mr. Mancinelli also believes that there are fuel-saving opportunities by removing 9<sup>th</sup> Ave N as a commercial truck route and remaining on the Bypass and highway systems. From the transportation industry perspective, we know this would provide minimal at best fuel-savings.

## SASKATCHEWAN TRUCKING ASSOCIATION BACKGROUND

The Saskatchewan Trucking Association firmly opposes losing 9<sup>th</sup> Ave N as a commercial truck route. Several transportation companies, including those operating out of the GTH, have day-to-day operations in this part of the City and is the only logical option to access the NW part of Regina, particularly since the City of Regina has already closed Dewdney Ave. to commercial truck traffic.

### **Saskatchewan Trucking Association, Member Quote: *Loblaws LTD.***

Since the opening of the Bypass, we have been using this section of 9<sup>th</sup> Ave N to access 6 of our stores in the NW. It has shown to have a significant positive impact on our time efficiencies and delivery cost, from our warehouse at the GTH.

If this section of road were to be deemed a non truck route, we would need to run our trucks up the Bypass to Hwy 11 and back in down Pasqua St, adding approximately 32 km per round trip. Once you factor in the 6 stores and multiple deliveries per day, this becomes a significant impact.

### **Saskatchewan Trucking Association, Member Quote: *Slinkemo Enterprises***

9th Ave N is an integral part of our operation. Since the City closed Dewdney to truck traffic, we have had no convenient access to central and north part of the City from the GTH Hub until the Bypass was finally done -- now they want to shut down 9th ave?? **(9th Ave has reduced our commute time by 45 percent into the north end of the City --** We are COMPLETELY OPPOSED to taking away 9th Ave as a truck route unless they are going to reopen Dewdney to trucks -- as they are now twinning Dewdney out by Westerra.

## DISCUSSION

### **Infrastructure**

It was stated that the stretch of road is in poor shape; however, 9<sup>th</sup> Ave N is in no worse or better shape than any secondary highways in Saskatchewan. For the stretch of road in question, which is less than 1km, the road serves its purpose and ensures the quick and efficient movement of goods.

### **Noise Complaints**

The industry feels this is an unfair claim and a feeble argument. During our August 14, 2020 meeting, we discussed in length this issue. All parties on the call understand vehicle noise is not a Trucking specific

issue. Noise from vehicles is produced by all road users. The Saskatchewan Trucking Association believes this to be an irrational idea that could lead to the cancellation of 9<sup>th</sup> Ave N as a truck route.

Transportation companies work around the clock, 24//7 delivering our City's most essential supplies and resources. During COVID-19, the response from the transportation industry has been heroic, as they have kept our supply chain moving in unprecedented times.

## **Business Environment**

Removing 9<sup>th</sup> Ave N as a designated commercial truck route also would significantly impact current and future business for the City of Regina. Currently, 9<sup>th</sup> Ave N is the only logical option for companies working out of the GTH who access the North part of Regina. Additionally, any future opportunity for new business from the GTH will rely on having access to this part of the City.

## **SOLUTIONS**

The Saskatchewan Trucking Association definitively stands against losing 9<sup>th</sup> Ave N as a designated commercial truck route. The Transportation industry drives Saskatchewan's economy and is essential to Regina citizens having the goods and resources they need to live. The City of Regina has already taken Dewdney Ave away from transportation companies, taking them both would be disheartening to such a vital industry.

The STA is aware of a potential solution that was discussed with Councillor Mancinelli and STA Carrier Members. Proposed was making the usage of 9<sup>th</sup> Ave N a permittable process where 9<sup>th</sup> Ave N would still be a designated commercial truck route, but at a fee for companies wishing to use it. In speaking with Transportation companies in Saskatchewan, this is still not ideal; The trucking industry is already one of the largest tax contributors to the province and pay a multitude of other permit fees. This would only be another undue hardship for the industry.

If a Permit process were to be a solution where 9<sup>th</sup> Ave remained a designated truck route—the STA would recommend that the permit process be:

- Simple, straightforward process
- Issued to the Company
- Nominal Cost
- No expiry date
- Cost neutral to the City of Regina
- Costs go back into Road Maintenance???

## CONCLUSION

Losing 9<sup>th</sup> Ave N as a commercial truck route would be a significant challenge to the transportation industry. The STA again firmly opposes losing another truck route in the City of Regina. Transportation is an essential industry and should be looked at as such. The STA envisions a thriving trucking community in the City of Regina and surrounding area. Losing key infrastructure would be a complete loss for the industry.

We hope that we can be allowed to advance our position at any upcoming City council meeting. The STA recognizes that any change to 9<sup>th</sup> Ave N would require a bylaw change; we ask that in this event, we have an opportunity to counter that.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. We look forward to an opportunity to connect to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Susan Ewart

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Ewart', with a stylized, cursive script.

Executive Director, Saskatchewan Trucking Association

Rob Ruiters,

Regina Terminal Manager, Bison Transport

Travis Beattie

Transport Manager, Loblaws LTD.

Al Ackerman

President, Slinkemo Enterprises

Lance Schmitke

Truck Operations Supervisor, Sales and Marketing, CNTL

Jas S Bar

Vice President, 4Tracks LTD.