

Dear councillors:

Although Mayor Fougere is recommending that no new business be transacted by the current Council prior to the upcoming election, the motion raised by Councillor Mancinelli must be addressed this month. It is not an overstatement to say that it is a matter of life or death, because it possibly could be with the increased truck traffic on 9th Avenue North. We are one of many residents who back onto 9th Avenue North who have serious concerns about the recent designation of this road as a truck route, of which we were not made aware. This designation must be removed immediately, for the following reasons:

1. This two lane road is too close to our backyards to permit a large truck to stop in time if it left the road.
2. This road was not designed for heavy truck traffic, as it doesn't have shoulders wide enough to accomodate a passenger vehicle, let alone a transport truck. The increased usage will ultimately result in a crumbling road that will cost many millions to repair and/or replace.
3. The whole purpose of the Bypass was to remove heavy truck traffic from city streets - this designation has brought more truck traffic into the city, with an estimated increase of truck traffic of 70% since January.
4. Truck drivers will take the shortest route that they can, and their claims about an extra 7 minutes of travel time if they don't use 9th Avenue North is a weak argument. If they used the Bypass like they are supposed to, they would avoid having to stop at traffic signals at McIntyre, McCarthy and Courtney. In addition, if and when Coopertown is developed, the plans call for a traffic signal at Fairway Road and 9th Avenue North, which would slow them down even more.
5. It will only be a matter of time before there is a serious accident along this stretch of road, and quite possibly a death. Do we really need a Humboldt in our city before action is taken? Are you prepared to be named in a lawsuit by a property owner or a family who has lost a loved one for the actions that you didn't take?

You represent the residents of our city, and as such, you determine how our interests should be handled. You should not be bullied by the Minister of Highways, the Province or the Saskatchewan trucking industry. Please do the right thing and support Councillor Mancinelli's motion.

Thank you.

Dave & Janice Sinclair