

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC INPUT

Renee McDonald

From: jannette haig [REDACTED]
Sent: February 10, 2021 10:35 AM
To: Hearings
Subject: Bylaw 04/2021
Attachments: BYLAW 04.docx

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments.

Attached is our written submission related to the public hearing about this Bylaw.

Thank you for including into the meeting agenda.

Jannette Haig
11 Kingsborough Crt

BYLAW 04/2021

Our family lives at 11 Kingsborough Court and our home backs onto Sturgeon Road. We have lived at this address for 30 years now. We are **VERY** concerned about the change to the Sir Winston Churchill Road from Poirier, and then Sturgeon Road at "bottom of the hill" to speed limit of 60 km/h from the current 50 km/h.

Now – changing this to 60 km/h puts at risk drivers exiting Kingswood at the lights intersection at Kingswood drive and going into Kingswood Park area. We all know that vehicles will often travel 10 km/h over the posted speed limit. This change puts the speeds of some of these vehicles at 70 km/h.

Consistently, each week, there is always a vehicle going and coming into St Albert that will run that light at the intersection of Kingswood Drive and Kingswood Park even though it is red. **We NEVER, as a driver start into the intersection until we are absolutely sure that cars have stopped.** Even though there is flashing signs going each way that the lights are red, this is ignored and through the lights they go. These vehicles are not going 50 km/h approaching the lights – either way. It is like a raceway through there!!!!

In addition, cars often "hit the gas" and race from the top of the hill by Holy Family church all the way down going out of the City. Also, right after the lights the cars often "hit the gas" and race all the way up the hill to Holy Family church. There are 2 crosswalks on that hill, one with flashing lights and one marked with a yellow sign. These are actively used by seniors to young children and parents crossing to enter Woodlands and also the Red Willow Trails.

This road is not an arterial road and it is only 2 lane. I am pointing this out as the Bylaw proposes 60 km/h on 4 lane streets and arterial roads.

The activity in the Kingswood Park area is amazing. Early mornings we have seen deer and lately a family of moose walking through there. The risk of hitting these animals due to their unpredictable behavior increases with the speed of vehicles travelling that road.

Finally, we have taught our children who are now adults to watch both intersections into Kingswood but especially the one with the lights. Now, our children are driving in and out of the neighbourhood with their children – **our grandchildren!!!!**

We implore you to consider NOT CHANGING this road to 60 km/h. Stick with the 50 km/h.

A side note – the changes to the speed limits proposed by this bylaw are perfectly acceptable EXCEPT this road.

Thank you for reading this submission.

Gerry and Jannette Haig

11 Kingsborough Crt



To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Council [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Stalbert.ca / Contact City Council Form Submission

Hello Dana,
Thank-you for taking the time to compose such a detailed submission. Just to make sure, do you want this included in the public hearing agenda package? If so, I will forward it to our legislative services department.

Stay healthy

Warmly,

Mayor Cathy Heron (*preferred pronoun: She/her*)
City of St. Albert, The Botanical Arts City
#T8NTogether
P: [780-459-1606](tel:780-459-1606) | T: www.twitter.com/CathyHeron

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mayorheron@stalbert.ca | www.stalbert.ca

www.facebook.com/cityofstalbert | www.twitter.com/cityofstalbert



From: no-reply@stalbert.ca <no-reply@stalbert.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 9:49 PM
To: Mayor Cathy Heron <mayorheron@stalbert.ca>
Subject: Stalbert.ca / Contact City Council Form Submission

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments.

The following email was sent to you from the City of St. Albert website.

Name [REDACTED]

Organization

Email [REDACTED]

Phone [REDACTED]

Message

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to express my concerns regarding the proposed change in speed limit on Sir Winston Churchill Avenue from Poirier Avenue to the northeast city limits towards Sturgeon County.

My family and I have been residents of Kingswood for just over two years. We were drawn to the area because of the close access to river valley trails, Riverlot 56 and Kingswood Park. We truly feel that we could not have found a better community to live in.

That being said, the intersection at Sir Winston Churchill Avenue and Kingswood Drive has always been a concern for our family. We were warned before moving into the neighbourhood of the risks associated with that intersection by other residents. Commuters often maintain their speed of 70km/h from Sturgeon County into the city limits of St. Albert and past Kingswood Park. At the intersection on Kingswood Drive, it is common for many drivers to not stop or be unable to slow down in time, when their light is red.

This is an intersection I use many times throughout a typical day, as I take my children to and from school. We also utilize that intersection regularly as pedestrians to access the river valley. I have often witnessed cars speed through the intersection and proceed right through a red light.

Unfortunately, this past fall I experienced a close call myself. A car coming into the city from Sturgeon County went right through a blatantly red light as I was about to proceed through the green. Luckily I know the intersection well enough to double check before proceeding, even on a green light. I was able to stop in time, while the other driver proceeded through the intersection completely unaware of the near miss we had just had.

My biggest concerns are not for myself, but I am a mother of two young boys who will one day independently ride their bikes across that intersection to access the river valley and the skate park. They will also one day drive their own cars through that intersection and may not remember to look both ways before proceeding on a green light.

Commuters already drive 70km/h or higher down that road and I feel a speed increase would only perpetuate the situation. We have always known that intersection is dangerous and treat it with caution, but I am concerned a speed increase could make it deadly.

Thank you for your time and taking my concerns into consideration.

Kind regards,
Dana Abella

Attachment(s)

Preferred response method?

Email

Recipients

All Members of Council

IP Address

66.222.183.224

Sent by The City of St. Albert at 9:49pm on February 10, 2021

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February 10, 2021

Dear Mayor Cathy Heron; Councillors Wes Brodhead, Jacquie Hansen, Sheena Hughes, Natalie Joly, Ken MacKay and Ray Watkins:

Regarding Council Meeting February 16, 2021

Agenda Item: Public Hearing Bylaw 4/2021 Traffic Bylaw Amendments (2nd & 3rd reading)

I am writing to address the proposal to increase the posted speed limit from 50km/hr to 60km/hr. My concerns apply specifically to increasing the speed limit on roadways: Winston Churchill Avenue from Kingswood Drive and Waverly continuing into Sturgeon Road to the northern limit of St. Albert and Poundmaker Road.

The following are my thoughts and experiences for not supporting the increase to 60km/hr on the above mentioned roadway.

1) Traffic noise impacting residential use of private outdoor space

COVID-19 social restrictions this past year, and ongoing for some foreseeable time, have heightened our need for accessible enjoyable outdoor reprieves, including one's own backyard. Unfortunately a significant majority of commuters do not pay attention to the current posted speed limit of 50km/hr. They prefer to motor along at 60km/hr and those leaving St. Albert, more often than not, steadily increase their speed to 70km/hr in anticipation of Sturgeon County's posted 70km/hr.

There are also motorists who, during evening and night hours, deliberately race their trucks, cars or motorbikes, often in tandem, from the Kingswood Park entrance traffic lights to Poundmaker Road and beyond. Speeds at times are easily exceeding 70km/hr while within St. Albert in anticipation of the flat open roadway in Sturgeon County. Some return for a repeat performance.

Increasing traffic speeds to above 50km/hr contributes to sanctioning escalating noise levels. The unnecessary exhaust and noise pollution generated from speeding commercial vehicles compounds the problem. Commercial vehicles consistently speeding on this roadway include loaded dumpster and cement trucks, trucks with flatbeds loaded with landscaping equipment and trees, moving vans, cube vans, service vehicles and the assortment of half ton trucks and vans.

There is not sufficiently dense or enough shrubbery and trees on the boulevard separating Sturgeon Road from home owners' properties to mitigate traffic noise. Planting trees and larger shrubs; using water strategies such as running streams, fountains and bubblers; or installing patio and deck screening do not effectively dampen traffic noise made with driving speeds above 50km/hr.

2) Lack of driver compliance, policing presence and enforcement

Sturgeon Road between Kingswood Park traffic lights and Poundmaker Road engineering visually beckons speeding both into and from Sturgeon County. The transition grace to and from is generally used as an opportunity to put the pedal to the metal and loudly crank up the gears. Drivers know from experience the likelihood of being ticketed on this stretch in St. Albert is remote to non-existent. To my understanding based upon enquiries, St. Albert RCMP and traffic enforcement deem this portion

of roadway a transition. They refuse to regularly police traffic infractions citing, in their defence, policing and enforcement would be unfair to drivers. Consequently drivers have learned and been reinforced to ignore, with impunity, the posted 50km/hr speed limit.

On the very rare occasion when an RCMP officer does pull over a driver or when St. Albert Public Works is present the traffic noise suddenly subsides and traffic is moving along smoothly at 50km/hr or less. This raises the conclusion that reasonable transition speeds are doable and 50km/hr is achievable and maintainable between Kingswood Drive/Kingswood Park entrance to Poundmaker Road. The threat of a ticket is an effective deterrent for potential violators.

Because travelling 10km/hr or more over the posted speed limit on this roadway is an established and accepted norm by traffic enforcement, increasing the speed limit to 60km/hr would have commuters adopting 70km/hr as the new approved standard. This would also have repercussions for the Kingswood Drive/Waverly/Winston Churchill Avenue intersection for drivers attempting left hand turns as this entrance/exit is not controlled with traffic lights.

At the Kingswood Park entrance the traffic control lights and signage with flashing amber to warn of a red or impending red light are mostly taken as an inconvenience and often arbitrarily ignored. Drivers routinely increase their speed when the amber flashes so they may quickly clear the intersection. Or they just drive through the red light. Again regular commuters have learned to both ignore the posted speed limit and also the traffic controls because there is no consequence. Going through red lights, speeding on green, failing to yield to pedestrians, or to the driver with the green light will not result in a traffic fine.

The road from Winston Churchill Avenue/Waverly and Kingswood Drive to Poundmaker Road has a number of crosswalks. Flashing crosswalk lights at Winston/Waverly/Kingswood and at Winston and Sturgeon Road; traffic lights at Kingswood Drive and Kingswood Park; and a fourth crossing without traffic controls or crosswalk lights at the crest of Poundmaker Road between the two parcels of River Lot 56. The latter being the riskiest because it is also right at the junction of differing speed limits.

3) Kingswood Park and Sturgeon Road boulevard use

Just as playgrounds and school zones attract a lot of pedestrian activity, so does Kingswood Park and the boulevard running along Sturgeon Road between Kingswood Park entrance and Poundmaker Road. The boulevard and Kingswood Park bordering on Sturgeon Road foot paths are used year round by runners, walkers, and dog walkers and the occasional person picking up litter. During the snow months this part of the park is also busy with cross country skiers and snow shoeing. The roadway, in the snow free months, is a common stretch for cyclists.

Throughout the four seasons these outdoor spaces are heavily used recreation destinations by individuals, couples, families and groups. COVID-19 social restrictions have noticeably increased their use. Because of the popular use over a greater number of hours all year round it is a wonder why the park zone is not given the same traffic safety considerations as playgrounds and school zones.

4) Increasing development and population growth

Both St. Albert and Sturgeon County will see burgeoning development and population numbers in the foreseeable future. This will contribute to more commuter pressure upon our roadways. It will also raise more critical issues about traffic encroachment upon quality of life for those living along these commuter paths. What values direction will St. Albert Council and City Administration take? How will these values be communicated and how will they be implemented? Reconciling the competing needs of commuters and ethical accountability to residents' interests will be an ongoing challenge.

I do support:

speed limit for school zones and playground zones – 30km/hr

speed limit for all residential areas – 40km/hr

speed limit for two lane arterial roads – 50km/hr

speed limit for four lane arterial roads – 60km/hr

Thank you for your time and attention to my point of view about the proposed traffic bylaw.

Sincerely,

Josephine Juchli

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]