

City Administration Position on Proposed Road Closures

City Administration is not supporting the closure of portions of Coal Mine Road or Ebony Way, and is requiring the connection of Ebony Way between Coal Mine Road and Everitt Drive North for the following reasons:

- 1) Maintaining the access reduces the impact that would occur for access to the commercial / residential sites that will be developed within the new proposed areas.
 - a. Closure of Coalmine Road would push these users of the commercial site and residents to utilize Erin Ridge Drive to Ebony Way or Everitt Drive North / Everitt Drive North to Ebony Way.
 - b. Closure of Ebony Way would eliminate a north / south connection point that results in traffic being pushed to Erin Ridge Drive and Everitt Drive / Everitt Drive North.
- 2) The benefit is to a small group immediately adjacent to the area, no benefit and negative impact to alternative roadways and residents.
- 3) In the long term, there are improvements to the overall road network that will greatly mitigate the use of the local roads:
 - a. Widening and improvements to St. Albert Trail
 - b. Construction of Neil Ross Road and connectivity to the east (Sturgeon County)
 - c. Construction of Fowler Way and connectivity to the west (reduces current volumes traveling eastbound on Villeneuve Road and potentially entering the Erin Ridge community.
 - d. Widening of Bellerose Drive
 - e. Construction of 127 Street
- 4) There is no doubt that limited north / south and east / west arterial connectivity is greatly impacting the use of the Erin Ridge community roadways to gain access to commercial sites and beyond the current boundaries of the City; however, a closure or elimination of an access / exit point based upon these existing scenarios is short sighted and would have a more detrimental effect on the other alternative options available; which in the long term would continue to be the only connection points when the Coalmine access / exit could have been maintained.
 - a. Sensitivity around the timelines of completion can be understood and emphasized with; however it does not negate the effects of further reducing the access to the Erin Ridge community by then pushing vehicular traffic to the north (to go south) or vice versa.
- 5) Emergency access is a consideration for the immediate time frame, as this is an area of concern that can then be addressed in the future with the construction and operation of an additional “north” fire hall / EMS station.