



## CITY OF ST. ALBERT ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUNDER

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### TITLE: CLOSURE OF COAL MINE ROAD AT EASTGATE WAY

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#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

On October 15, 2018 Mayor Heron provided notice in accordance with Section 23 of Procedure Bylaw 3/2018 that she intended to bring forward the proposed motion below.

Administration recommends to move forward with "Path 1" as provided in the background to this report.

#### PROPOSED MOTION(S):

That administration initiate the closure of Coal Mine Road at Eastgate Way N and have this completed by December 31, 2018.

#### ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Strategic Priority #3: Building a Transportation Network: Integrated transportation systems.

Corporate Business Plan; Administrative Activity 3.6: Develop the Transportation Safety Plan and recommend implementation of initiatives to minimize the risk of injury or fatality on City roadways.

#### ALIGNMENT TO ADMINISTRATIVE PRIORITY

N/A

#### ALIGNMENT TO SERVICE DELIVERY

##### Land Use Planning:

Service Name	Service Definition	Service Component	Current Service Level
Current Planning Application Process	Processing and coordination of the approval of Statutory plans and amendments, subdivision and condominiums applications.	Land Use Bylaw Amendments	Processing time is 4-6 months from the pre-application to completion of the amendments. Issue notice to public for public hearing, 17 days prior to public hearing meeting.

## BACKGROUND:

The idea of closing a small portion of Coal Mine Road where it intersects with Eastgate Way arises from work in support of the Neighbourhood Traffic Calming program in the communities of Erin Ridge and Erin Ridge North. Attached map shows the location of the proposed closure.

During the Traffic Calming public engagement, concerns were raised about traffic on the local roadways of Edgewater Terrace and Eastgate Way, particularly the volumes of traffic that residents believed to be much higher than such residential neighbourhoods ought to have, as well as vehicle speeds on these roadways. During investigation into these public concerns it was recorded that on Edgewater Terrace approximately 37% of vehicle traffic was using the route as a short cut between Coal Mine Road or Range Road 253 (a gravel road into Sturgeon County) and other St. Albert destinations, and on Eastgate Way approximately 26% of the vehicles were using the route as a similar short cut.

In response to these public concerns and the above cited traffic data, a closure was proposed for a small part of Coal Mine Road that would have the effect of eliminating access from either Range Road 253 or Coal Mine Road into the Erin Ridge communities. North-south movement would be maintained, providing the opportunity for vehicles to travel from RR 253 to Bellerose Drive which is a major collector intended for larger volumes of traffic. But direct vehicle access from Eastgate Way to either RR 253 or Coal Mine Road would no longer be allowed.

The authority for a City to close a road is found in Section 22 of the *Municipal Government Act* ("MGA"):

- 22**     *(1) No road in a municipality that is subject to the direction, control and management of the municipality may be closed except by bylaw.*
- (2) A bylaw closing a road must be advertised.*
- (4) Before passing a bylaw closing a road, a person who claims to be affected prejudicially by the bylaw or that person's agent must be given an opportunity to be heard by the council.*

A detailed transportation analysis is scheduled to occur in November 2018, which will then allow Administration to inform the public and other stakeholders of the expected impacts of the closure.

There are two action paths that may be followed to complete the closure:

1. Path 1: Involves the mandatory work surrounding the development and approval of a Bylaw to close the roadway, with Administration informing the process thoroughly with the transportation analysis and non-mandatory proactive public engagement prior to the Non-Statutory Public Hearing.

2. Path 2: Involves the mandatory work surrounding the development and approval of a Bylaw to close the roadway, with Administration performing only the transportation analysis and elimination of the non-mandatory public engagement prior to the Non-Statutory Public Hearing.

The two paths and their respective time lines are shown in the following table:

Action	Path 1 Date(s)	Path 2 Date(s)
Transportation Analysis	November 30, 2018	November 30, 2018
Administration Meeting with Sturgeon County	November 30, 2018	November 30, 2018
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading of Bylaw	December 3, 2018	December 3, 2018
Public Open House	January 31, 2019	Excluded
Non-Statutory Public Hearing and 2 <sup>nd</sup> / 3 <sup>rd</sup> Readings of Bylaw	March 18, 2019	January 7, 2019

Administration recommends moving forward with Path 1, to ensure that adequate background information is captured, compiled and reported on prior to consideration of road closure. Although this course of action requires additional time before achieving road closure, it would generate greater knowledge of possible impacts and provide an opportunity to plan for any necessary mitigation work to address impacts or stakeholder / public concerns. This action plan also provides greater time and opportunity for information sharing with Sturgeon County and would assist for their own planning / impact work to be performed prior to any immediate activity of closure, which supports stronger working relationships and collaboration between the jurisdictions.

The risk to this path is that residents of Edgewater Terrace and Eastgate Way are anticipating this road closure and will most likely have to continue bearing the impact of the traffic issues they face today until the road closure is approved and implemented.

Although Path 2 would result in road closure in approximately the time frame contemplated in the Notice of Motion, Administration does not recommend this course of action for the following reasons:

- a) The acknowledgment of impacts of the closure are not fully known at this time of developing the backgrounder; which could revert traffic safety issues or operational issues from Edgewater Terrace or Eastgate Way to other roadway sites. Following Path 1 improves time for necessary planning and opportunity to take actions prior to the closure occurrence.

- b) Lack of advanced notice of closure and the potential impacts of it to roads in the neighboring jurisdiction may undermine the collaborative work culture encouraged especially in the light of annexation process.
- c) Minimal delay from Path 1 and Path 2. The timelines shown in the table result in a delay by following Path 1 as anticipated to be 10 weeks.

#### Other considerations

- 1) Neighbourhood Posted Speeds: Administration will take action to expedite amendments to the Traffic Bylaw and bring forward for Council consideration on January 28, 2019 reduced posted speed limits to 40 km/hr in the communities of Erin Ridge and Erin Ridge North.

Report Date: November 5, 2018

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