

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE**Heritage Hills Community Traffic Safety Review****Report Purpose**

To provide Priorities Committee information on the process and outcomes of the Heritage Hills Community Traffic Safety Review.

Our Prioritized Strategic Goals

Goal 2 - Manage, invest and plan for sustainable municipal infrastructure

Goal 7 - Provide opportunities for public engagement and communication

Goal 8 - Foster an environment for safe communities

Report

The purpose of the Heritage Hills Community Traffic Safety Review was:

1. to perform a comprehensive review of traffic conditions in Heritage Hills to consider potential actions that could be taken to improve safety with upcoming neighbourhood rehabilitation, and
2. to ensure the road environment is ready to safely and efficiently manage traffic when the Heritage Hills Elementary School opens in 2020.

The Heritage Hills Community Traffic Safety Review was a collaborative project, integrating data from neighbourhood residents with engineering data collected by Strathcona County and by Bunt and Associates (as part of the Transportation Impact Assessment (TIA) provided by Elk Island Public Schools as part of the development process for the new school). Both internal and external stakeholders were engaged through the process.

Detailed engineering analysis (provided through the TIA and confirmed by Strathcona County) concludes that the current roadway network is sufficient to support the additional traffic generated by the school. Speed data collected by Strathcona County at 12 locations in the neighbourhood indicates traffic is generally travelling within expected parameters for the posted speed limit of 50 km/h, with the exception of Highland Drive. There is also poor compliance with the playground zone.

Heritage Hills has an excellent collision record with no fatal, major injury, pedestrian or cyclist collisions reported in the neighbourhood in the last ten years. The intersections of Highland Way/Highcliff Road and Heritage Drive/Highland Way have the highest incidence of minor injury collisions.

An extensive public engagement process was undertaken for this project, consisting of two phases. The first phase included a community workshop and online survey to understand resident priorities and concerns in the neighbourhood. Results indicate the majority of residents in the neighbourhood do not support physical changes to the roads to manage traffic speeds, but neighbourhood support for physical upgrades to improve pedestrian safety is high.

With resident priorities and concerns in mind, traffic safety options were developed using a safe routes to school lens, prioritizing pedestrian safety at key crossing points. The plans for physical road changes are not extensive, mainly including changes that are already required by the Neighbourhood Traffic Safety Action Plan.

Priorities Committee Meeting_Sep17_2019

These options were presented to the community during the second phase of resident engagement, including an open house and another online survey that were extensively communicated to residents through multiple means.

The result of this project is a traffic safety plan intended to address current and anticipated traffic concerns in Heritage Hills. It was developed based mainly on open house/survey results and informed by stakeholder input. It is a comprehensive plan including actions from all 5Es- engineering, education, enforcement, engagement and evaluation.

The plan includes physical upgrades to pedestrian infrastructure at key crossing points in the community, including trail crossings and at the school. All-way stop control will be implemented at Heritage Drive and Highland Way one month prior to the school opening in 2020 to manage operational concerns resulting from the additional traffic.

The playground zone on Heritage Drive will be revised to a school zone just prior to the school opening. Although supported by the neighbourhood, no change will be made in the short-term to the default residential speed limit of 50 km/h in Heritage Hills, as a change to the default residential speed limits within the Urban Service Area is currently being evaluated as part of the Neighbourhood Traffic Safety Action Plan and the Glen Allan Traffic Calming project.

The estimated implementation cost of the engineering and education features of the project is \$178,500. This cost is captured and contemplated in the annual Traffic and Pedestrian Safety budgets. Enforcement, engagement and evaluation actions will be completed through regular staff operations. Strathcona County will continue to monitor traffic speed, volumes and operations in Heritage Hills after the new school opens to evaluate the effectiveness of the traffic safety plan.

Other Impacts

Policy: SER-009-017 Traffic Control Devices, SER-009-040 Traffic Calming Policy

Legislative/Legal: n/a

Interdepartmental: RCMP and Enforcement Services, Emergency Services, Transit, Transportation and Agriculture Services

Master Plan/Framework: Traffic Safety Strategic Plan, Neighbourhood Traffic Safety Action Plan

Communication Plan

All residents of Heritage Hills will be informed about the outcomes of this project by door hangers to be distributed in the neighbourhood. Further information for is available on the detailed project webpage.

Enclosures

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| 1 | Heritage Hills Community Traffic Safety Review Presentation |
| 2 | Heritage Hills Community Traffic Safety Review Final Report August 2019 |
| 3 | Heritage Hills Community Traffic Safety Review Open House and Online Survey Summary Report July 2019 |
| 4 | Heritage Hills Community Traffic Safety Review Open House and Online Survey Report July 2019 |