

Priorities Committee Meeting_Jun27_2023

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE**Project TENSOR East 2023 Update****Report Purpose**

To provide the Priorities Committee with a Council requested update on Strathcona County Enforcement Service's Project TENSOR East, outlining the results of the operations held to date.

Our Strategic Goals

Goal 2 - Healthy and Safe Community

Goal 4 Priority - Optimal use of resources that meets the community's needs

Goal 4 Priority - Relationships with all levels of government and key stakeholders that are strategic, purposeful and productive

Report**Update**

On May 5, 2023, Strathcona County Enforcement Services scheduled the Advance TENSOR Event (ATE). This initial large scale and highly visible operation was designed to emphasize our 2023 program and inform the community of our objective and commitment to prevent and reduce vehicle noise complaints.

Unfortunately, mother nature had other plans for May 5, 2023, as wildfires gripped the County forcing the evacuation of residents and the rapid redeployment of resources. All available Strathcona County Enforcement Services officers were used to assist Emergency Services and the RCMP. Regrettably, the Advanced TENSOR Event (ATE) was cancelled due to the emergent wildfire situation with the safety of our residents being the priority.

- Partnership: Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Edmonton Police Service, Alberta Sheriffs
- Targets: Loud/aggressively driven vehicles
- Violations: Noise, speed, equipment regulations, document infractions, etc.

Scheduled TENSOR Events

We have twelve events scheduled from May through September 2023. These began May 19 and are coordinated with the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) to allow for a regional approach. Enforcement Services and the RCMP are encouraged to take enforcement action outside of designated operation dates throughout the summer while performing regular duties and patrols.

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Innovations and Improvements

2023 will bring the following innovations and improvements:

- Improved/focused communications
 - Inter-agency communication with clear goals and objectives
 - Increased social media presence
 - Public service announcements
- New and innovative enforcement strategies and operations targeting noise
 - Larger more visible operations
 - Wide scale launch
 - Analysis and adjustment of fines to warnings ratio, while maintaining a balance of enforcement and education

Statistics To Date

To this point, after two operations, we have the following statistical information to report:

May 19, 2023 (118 violations)

- 16.9% of the overall violations were noise related
- 52 tickets
- 66 warnings (including repair notices)
- Violations include noise, speed, distracted driving, other

May 27, 2023 (87 violations)

- 9.2% of the overall violations were noise related
- 44 tickets
- 43 warnings (including repair notices)
- Violations include noise, speed, distracted driving, other

History

- Established in 2021, Project TENSOR East (Traffic Enforcement Noise/Speed Offence Reduction) is an evidence informed traffic safety initiative that concentrates enforcement efforts on reducing noise and speeding on county roadways.
- Traffic complaints, relating to speed and noise, have enabled Enforcement Services to centralize its efforts and foster inter-agency collaboration in a targeted enforcement strategy relating to community and traffic safety issues.
- Regional partners included: Edmonton Police Service, Alberta Sheriffs, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.
- Our regional approach with Edmonton Police Service was aligned with operations occurring on the same date.
- The offences encountered include the following: speeding, distracted driving, general equipment violation, noise related offences, occupant restraints, suspended drivers, document offences, and other hazardous moving violations.
- The project focused on designated 'Hot Spot' locations and other locations appointed by supervisors based on information received from the public.
- The project has produced encouraging enforcement numbers in the Sherwood Park area.

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- Results were recognized by the displacement of several problem type vehicles in locations where there was a high frequency of complaints and notable social media attention.
- Upon request, drivers and/or owners have been required to repair any equipment violations to ensure that their vehicle complies with applicable legislation.
- Enforcement, along with a coordinated educational component, is the primary goal of Project TENSOR.
- Significant efforts have been put forth to align efforts with education and communication to the community.
- Consistent messaging is being delivered by Corporate Communications.
- Focusing on the education component, Peace Officers have attended area high schools and presented information on the Traffic Safety Act and Rules of the Road Regulations directly to students.
- Approximately 858 violations were issued in 2022, an increase of 29% over 2021.
- Roughly 19% of all violations were related to noise.

The primary objectives of Project TENSOR are accomplished by:

- Enforcing existing legislation
 - Strathcona County Noise Bylaw 66-99
 - 3.1(b) Motor vehicle cause a noise - \$200
 - 3.2 Owner allow noise - \$200
 - Subsequent offence - \$500
 - Alberta Traffic Safety Act – Vehicle Equipment Regulations
 - 61(1) Exhaust muffler produce excessive noise/flames/sparks - \$162
 - 61(2) Drive/operate motor vehicle if exhaust outlet of muffler widened - \$162
 - 61(3) Drive/operate motor vehicle if device attached to exhaust system/muffler increases noise/allows flame to ignite - \$162
- Law enforcement is encouraging driver compliance through enforcement, education, and follow-up inspections.

Strathcona County Enforcement Services is committed to the successful launch and continuance of Project TENSOR as we work towards reducing the number of traffic related noise complaints and to compel drivers to ensure compliance with TSA regulations and noise restrictions.

Other Impacts

Policy: n/a

Financial/Budget: n/a

Legislative/Legal: n/a

Interdepartmental: n/a

Master Plan/Framework: n/a

Enclosure 1

Project TENSOR East 2023 Update presentation