

Priorities Committee Meeting_Jul11_2023

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE

Annual Traffic Safety Report 2022

Report Purpose

To provide Priorities Committee with an update on the 2022 Annual Traffic Safety Report.

Our Strategic Goals

Goal 2 - Healthy and Safe Community

Goal 3 - Responsible Development

Goal 4 - Municipal Excellence

Goal 2 Priority - Social supports that enhance community well-being and safety, and build community connection

Goal 3 Priority - Growth and development that prioritizes community well-being and economic benefits

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

Report

This report provides Strathcona County's reported collision statistics for 2022. While this report compares 2022 traffic data with previous years, we recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions created impacts on transportation networks, and the results must be considered within this context. Overall, there has been a decreasing trend in the rate of collisions within Strathcona County from 2013 to 2021, with a measurable increase in 2022. While there are likely multiple factors involved in the increase in collisions, the speculation is that the increase in traffic volume as drivers adjust to normal traffic patterns since the pandemic restrictions were lifted, has contributed, in part, to the increase.

Collision types for all roads in Strathcona County:

- The rate of property damage only collisions has consistently decreased since 2014, with the lowest rates reported in 2021. There has been an increase in 2022; however, the total remained lower than 2019 collision rates (pre-pandemic).
- The rate of minor-injury collisions fluctuates each year, with an increasing trend from 2014 to 2018, decreasing trend up to 2021, and an increase in 2022.
- The rate of major-injury collisions was highest in 2015 for the 10-year period and dropped to the lowest collision rate in 2020. There was a slight increase in major injury collision rate in 2021 and a measurable increase in 2022.
- Fatal collisions in Strathcona County have been consistently between five to seven per year. In 2022, eight fatal collisions occurred on provincial highways resulting in 11 fatalities.
- Collision rates for County-owned roads have maintained a similar trend when compared with the overall collision rates. Severe injury and fatal collisions are mainly occurring on provincial highways.
- There were no fatal or major injury collisions on residential collectors or local streets.

For 2023 and 2024 the priority traffic safety projects include:

- Continuing to work with Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors to identify safe systems options to improve transportation network safety.

Priorities Committee Meeting_Jul11_2023

- Continuing to align resources towards evidence-based, data-driven engineering, enforcement, and education initiatives focused on improving traffic safety.
- Continuing to install rectangular rapid flashing beacons at warranted crosswalk locations.
- Continuing to improve pedestrian safety through the installation of curb extensions, raised crosswalks, and speed humps with scheduled road rehabilitation.
- Undertaking safety audits along rural roads with scheduled road rehabilitation to identify and install warranted roadside barriers such as guardrails and high-tension cable barriers.

Council and Committee History

May 10, 2022 Priorities Committee was provided an update on the 2021 Annual Traffic Safety Report.

Other Impacts

Policy: Traffic Calming Policy

Financial/Budget: Annual Traffic and Pedestrian Safety

Legislative/Legal: n/a

Interdepartmental: RCMP and Enforcement Services

Master Plan/Framework: Integrated Transportation Master Plan, Rural Road Master Plan, Traffic Safety Strategic Plan

Communication Plan

Annual Traffic Safety Communication Plan

Enclosures

- 1 Traffic Collision Statistics Report 2022
- 2 Traffic Safety Demographics and Trends 2018 - 2022