

REPORT FOR INFORMATION**2023 Traffic Safety Update****Report Purpose**

To provide Priorities Committee with the 2023 Annual Collision Statistics 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 collision statistics reported within Strathcona County for 2023. Motor vehicle collisions resulting in a fatality, injury or property damage only are required by law to be reported to law enforcement. The Traffic Collision Statistics Report (Enclosure 1) deals with these reportable collisions when damage exceeds \$2,000 or more until 2023. The Government of Alberta has raised the damage threshold for a reportable collision to \$5,000 in 2024.

The report provides detailed information regarding collisions that occurred on roads and highways within Strathcona County's jurisdiction. The collision data is maintained by Strathcona County for the report and is based upon the Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors data. There are many collisions that go unreported for a variety of reasons and therefore are not included in this report. Also, we have found that there are many collisions that have data deficiencies in the collecting data which makes compiling the data challenging. The collision information provided may not include those collisions which remain in an open status due to pending investigations and legal requirements. There may be some discrepancies in the RCMP and Strathcona County datasets for various reasons.

The following are the key highlights of the report.

Licensed drivers and vehicle registrations:

There are 73,438 licensed drivers in Sherwood Park in 2023, an increase of 1.4% compared to 2022 (73,305). Overall, there are 82,822 vehicles registered in Sherwood Park in 2023, an increase of 0.5% compared to 2022 (82,418).

Traffic collisions:

In 2023, there are a total of 1,564 reported collisions that occurred on public roadways. Collisions that occurred on provincial highways accounted for 38% of the total collisions. Seven collisions involved fatalities (0.4% of total collisions), six of them occurred on provincial highways. 46 collisions involved major injuries (2.9% of total collisions), and 449 (28.7%) were minor injury collisions. 1,062 were property damage only collisions.

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- Overall traffic collisions in Strathcona County increased 3% in 2023 compared to 2022 but remain relatively consistent for the last five years (2018 – 2022) annual average. There were 1,564 collisions in 2023, up from 1,062 collisions in 2022. Five-year annual average collisions are 1,567 per year.
- The increase in the total number of collisions in 2023 compared to 2022 is attributable to increase in collisions by major and minor injury types while fatal and property damage only collisions reduced.
- 2023 resulted in one less fatal collision, 23 more major-injury collisions, 35 more minor-injury collisions and 15 less property-damage-only collisions.
- Fatal and major-injury collision rates were lower during the pandemic restrictions (2020 – 2021) and have now returned to pre-pandemic levels with normalized traffic patterns.
- Provincial highways experienced a consistent increase in collisions during the last three years. Six out of the seven fatal collisions occurred on provincial highways.
- There were no fatal or major injury collision on collector or local roads in 2023.

Council and Committee History

July 11, 2023	Priorities Committee was provided an update on the 2022 Annual Traffic Safety Report.
May 10, 2022	Priorities Committee was provided an update on the 2021 Annual Traffic Safety Report.
July 13, 2021	Priorities Committee was provided an update on the implementation of the 2021 Traffic Safety Strategic Plan.

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, Sustainable Rural Roads Master Plan, Traffic Safety Strategic Plan

Communication Plan

Annual Traffic Safety Communication Plan

Enclosure

1 Traffic Collision Statistics Report 2023