

# CITY OF SASKATOON

## River Heights Neighbourhood Traffic Review **Minutes**

**Date:** Wednesday, April 11, 2018

**Time:** 7:00 – 9:00 pm

**Location:** St. Anne School – 102 Ravine Ct

### **Attendees:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Kathy Dahl	Facilitator, Great Works Consulting
Mitch Riabko	Facilitator, Great Works Consulting
Chelsea Lanning	City of Saskatoon Transportation Engineer River Heights Neighbourhood Traffic Review Project Manager
Nathalie Baudais	City of Saskatoon Transportation Engineer
David LeBoutillier	City of Saskatoon Transportation Engineer
Minqing Deng	City of Saskatoon Transportation Engineer
Staff Sergeant Patrick Barbar	Saskatoon Police Services, Traffic Unit
Councillor Randy Donauer	Ward 5 City Council Representative

### **Items:**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Opening Remarks by Councillor Randy Donauer

**2. Presentation from the Transportation Division**

(Presented by Chelsea Lanning – Transportation Engineer)

See Attachment: Presentation – April 11, 2018

**Saskatoon Police Services**

**306-975-8300 OR 306-975-8068 to report a traffic complaint or a concern.**

**3. Small Group Discussions**

Breakout into small groups to discuss traffic concerns in River Heights and potential solutions

#### 4. **Small group reports to large group**

##### Group 1: Mariniel Flores

- Warman Road into Canarama Shopping Centre
  - Traffic jams and potential conflicts/collisions here (notice it all day long)
  - Suggested closing the access on Warman Road to Canarama, but keeping the access off of Assiniboine Drive.
- Assiniboine Drive & Warman Road
  - Concerns with the southbound left turn. Suggested installing a protected green left-turn arrow.
- Coppermine Crescent – Coppermine to Coppermine
  - Speeding on this street. Suggested speed bumps as a solution.
- Coppermine road closure
  - Creates more traffic on Warman Road.
  - Discussed reasons it was installed, including reducing speeding and shortcutting from downtown to Primrose Drive.
  - Table suggests leaving it closed or considering a directional closure for northbound traffic, but allow traffic to travel southbound through that street.
- Spadina Crescent / Whiteswan Drive
  - Many vehicles are parked along here and many people are jaywalking from parked vehicles to the sand bar.
  - Parking interferes with the bike lane.
  - Cyclists are speeding along the pathways even though there is a bike lane here.
- Capilano Drive curve (SW corner/curve close to Ravine Drive)
  - Speeding here, mostly in the westbound direction because it is wide.
  - 30km/h speed advisory sign is obstructed by trees.
  - It's the same people speeding.
  - More enforcement or a speed display board are suggested.
- Pedestrian walkway from Coppermine Crescent to Churchill Court across Churchill Drive
  - Difficult for vehicles to see pedestrians.
  - Standard crosswalk is suggested.
- Warman Road
  - Amount of semi-trucks has increased. They are using Warman Road instead of Millar Avenue.
- Saguenay Drive & Assiniboine Drive
  - Confusion with the 2-way stop. Lots of close calls here.
  - 4-way stop is suggested.
- Assiniboine Drive (Warman Road to St. Lawrence Crescent)
  - High traffic volumes here.
- Pedestrian crossing at Spadina Crescent & Pembina Avenue (near Circle Drive North Bridge)

- Difficult to see pedestrians.
- Suggest an active pedestrian corridor here.
- Churchill Drive (near Ravine Court)
  - Remove dirt in front of Churchill Drive. It's obstructing the sidewalk.
- Assiniboine Drive snow removal
  - Snow is obstructing the parking lane.
  - Snow needs to be cleared and picked up. The problem is worst on Assiniboine Drive at Ravine Drive in particular.

Group 2: Nathalie Baudais

- Ravine Drive near River Heights School
  - Speeding
- Churchill Court & Ravine Drive
  - Parking too close to the northwest and southwest corners blocking visibility.
- School Zones
  - U-turns in the school zone at the Churchill Court & Ravine Drive intersection and along Ravine Drive.
  - Backing up on driveways during pick-up and drop-off to turn around.
  - People are parking between crosswalks or within crosswalks
  - Drop-offs are happening on the street.
  - Snow windrows make drop-off challenging
  - New pick-up/drop-off zone works in the morning but not in the evening. Kids have to walk across staff parking lot which parents are using for drop-off.
  - Dumpster causes visibility issues.
  - School zone should be expanded along Assiniboine Dr to include crosswalks used by kids walking to/from school.
- St Lawrence Crescent & Assiniboine Drive (west)
  - Crosswalk needed
- Assiniboine Drive
  - Speeding concerns.
  - Pedestrian crossing safety along Assiniboine a concern.
- Churchill Drive
  - Speed way in late night hours (11:00 pm – 1:00 am).
  - Sinkhole
- Spadina Crescent
  - Visibility at Ravine Drive is poor because vehicles are parked too close to the crosswalks.
  - Parking enforcement is needed.
- Assiniboine Drive (west of Ravine Drive)
  - Speeding – it's a race track here.
  - Lots of families with younger kids live here. Kids can't play in the front yard.

- Residents have been calling the police 2-3 times per month for 20 years regarding speeding between Ravine Drive and Warman Road.
- Coppermine Crescent
  - Sidewalks in poor condition on south side of Coppermine – care home for seniors.
- Walkway connecting Coppermine Crescent & Churchill Court and walkway connecting Coppermine Crescent & Ravine Court
  - Walkway drainage issues.
- Primrose Drive
  - Snow removal is horrendous. The street loses 5 feet of width to that.
- Train tracks along CN
  - No legal pedestrian crossing for 7km.
  - Residents need a connection to the industrial area.
- Spadina Crescent & Pembina Avenue
  - No one uses the paved pathway connection from crosswalk to Meewasin Trail. They all use the direct dirt pathway. The dirt pathway connection to the bridge should be gravel or paved.
- Spadina Crescent – Pembina Avenue to Ravine Drive
  - Windrows in bike lane should be cleared during winter months.
  - Driver confusion about how to treat cyclists and pedestrians along this stretch and at intersections. Driver education is needed.

Group 3: David LeBoutillier

- Assiniboine Drive & St. Lawrence Crescent
  - U-turns are an issue.
  - Consider a 4-way or 2-way stop here.
  - Large volumes on all four legs and high speeds on Assiniboine Drive.
  - Poor visibility on all four legs due to parked vehicles.
  - Traffic needs to be slowed down on Assiniboine Drive.
  - Pedestrians can't cross. There are no gaps.
  - Issues are worse at peaks, but exist all day.
- St. Lawrence Crescent & Columbia Drive
  - Poor visibility with parked vehicles.
  - Columbia Drive needs a yield or stop sign installed.
- Churchill Drive & St. Lawrence Crescent
  - Northbound needs a stop or yield sign installed.
- Churchill Drive
  - Needs traffic calming.
  - Speeding between Warman Road & Ravine Drive.
- Assiniboine Drive
  - Speeding along the whole length.
  - Snow removal on Assiniboine Drive leads to parked cars in driving lane.
- Assiniboine Drive (westbound)
  - Parked cars on curve are an issue.

- Pedestrians are crossing through cars.
- Warman Road southbound left turn arrow
  - Why doesn't it come on every time onto Assiniboine Drive? It should.
  - Left turn to 7-eleven an issue.
- Ravine Drive & Assiniboine Drive
  - Very slippery – needs sanding in the winter.
  - Is it an option for a roundabout?
- Primrose Drive & Coppermine Crescent
  - Crosswalk needs paint.
  - Eastbound left turn was prohibited, sign is down and now traffic backs up at the main entrance to the Safeway parking lot
  - 'Stop here' sign on Primrose sign location needs to be checked.
- Missing crosswalk between Sandy Court and parking lot
- Pedestrian crossing under Circle Drive North bridge
  - Problem for bike lane.
  - Northbound left turn at Pembina Ave and northbound traffic swerving around them (passing on the right).
- Spadina Crescent
  - Speeding
  - Summer parking busy near beach access.
- School Zone
  - U-turns in the school zone.
  - Parking on the street and idling.
- Happy to hear about pedestrian crossings of Warman Road into industrial area.

#### Group 4: Minqing Deng

- Spadina Crescent & Pembina Avenue
  - Runners, dog walkers, etc are not visible to motorists when crossing here, especially in the early morning.
  - Crosswalk should be made more visible, perhaps through better lighting or more pavement markings.
  - Dog walkers use the sidewalk.
- Capilano Drive
  - Speed bumps at the southeast island, east and west of the island suggested. It's downhill east to west here.
  - Southwest and southeast corner of Assiniboine Drive & Capilano Drive intersection has sightline issues due to parked vehicles.
- Churchill Drive & Assiniboine Drive
  - Should have an active pedestrian corridor here (with flashing lights) for pedestrians. What's there now does not flash.
  - Not sanded properly in the winter.
- Ravine Drive & Assiniboine Drive
  - Slippery, not properly sanded.

- Churchill Drive (100 block)
  - Roadway grades/washboard effect has created lots of pools/lakes on the road.
  - Used to have signs which have been knocked down.
  - Increased speeds make it even more dangerous since vehicles sway.
  - Creates lots of traffic noise for the houses along the roadway.
  - New water and sewer work seemed to try to correct the roadway grade problem but only shifted the pool to a different spot in the same area.
- Churchill Drive & Ravine Drive
  - Speeding.
  - Drivers ignoring stop signs.
  - Drivers ignoring the 30km/hr sign.
  - There are too many signs. The cul-de-sac sign is currently ignored because there are too many other signs making clutter. Please keep the cul-de-sac sign or more people will shortcut.
  - Illegal U-turns in the school zone.
  - Traffic is not yielding to children, or resumes driving way before children have made it to the other side of the road.
  - Traffic camera is needed to catch speeding traffic in the school zone.
  - Crossing Churchill Drive there is no crosswalk; crossing is difficult since there is no stop control for Churchill Drive traffic, only Ravine Drive traffic stops.
  - Enforcement is needed for speeding.
  - On the west side of this 2-way stop parked vehicles are obstructing drivers' views.
- Bow Court
  - Drainage issues at the intersection of Bow Court and Assiniboine Drive. The entire Bow Court roadways is covered by a pool of water.
  - New water and sewer work seemed to try to correct the roadway grading problem, but only shifted the problem.
- Kootenay Drive / Albany Crescent
  - Poor drainage on the entire east leg of both of these streets.
- Ravine Court
  - Foot traffic is shortcutting to the library.
  - Some drivers are using the pathway to drive on.
- Sturgeon Drive
  - Similar downhill grade present at the Sturgeon Drive west leg to Assiniboine Drive, so maybe a speed bump is also needed at the north side of the southwest island.
- Sidewalk issues
  - No snow shovelled at all. Question if this should be done by the City or not.
  - Meewasin park look out area and the whole park generally is poorly shovelled.
- Crime Issues

- Issues at the south end of the southeast island in Capilano (southeast of Place and Drive intersection).
- Issues at southeast corner of the Meewasin park.
- Issues at Spadina Crescent to the east end of Sandy Court.

Group 5: Chelsea Lanning

- Assiniboine Drive & Ravine Drive
  - 4-way stop westbound gets icy on Assiniboine Drive because it's on a slight downslope. Cars slide through causing near misses.
- Ravine Drive & Churchill Court
  - U-turns in the school zone happen here frequently, mostly in the morning drop-off.
- Churchill Drive & Ravine Drive
  - Tree covering the eastbound stop sign.
  - Investigate making this a 4-way stop as well as traffic calming like median islands and curb extensions to make signs more visible.
  - Crosswalks should be installed in all four directions.
  - Consider installing an active pedestrian corridor here.
- Lots of kids/adults use the walkways. Please don't close them!
- Coppermine Crescent closure
  - Would love to see it reopened.
  - Potential for a route for northern neighbourhoods to access the French Immersion School without having to use Warman Road to Churchill Drive.
- Warman Road & Churchill Drive
  - The left turn bay is too short and narrow (especially in winter when snow is present).
  - Traffic signals would help with the left turn against three lanes of traffic.
- Safety concerns in school zones (generally).
- Assiniboine Drive
  - Speeding – between Nahani Drive & Nahani Drive and Athabasca Crescent & Athabasca Crescent.
  - Consider speed display board.
  - No pedestrian crossings are respected along the length of Assiniboine Drive.
- Assiniboine Drive & Churchill Drive
  - Pedestrian corridor not respected.
  - People don't stop for pedestrians here, curb extensions have improved it.
  - Consider installing an active pedestrian corridor.
- Spadina Crescent
  - Love Spadina Crescent.
  - Issues with passing on the right along Spadina Crescent in the bike lanes. This also happens at the intersection of Ravine Drive.

- Spadina Crescent & Pembina Avenue
  - Active pedestrian corridor suggested.
  - Visibility of the crossing is poor for northbound drivers.
- Spadina Crescent & Ravine Drive
  - Cycling connection from the Meewasin trail to Ravine Drive is needed.
- Street sweeping of school zones should meet up with sweeping in the neighbourhood.
- Circle Drive traffic is loud. Hoping North Commuter Parkway will take some truck traffic off of Circle Drive.
- Sidewalks on 51<sup>st</sup> Street are needed.
- Park near southwest corner of Capilano Crescent
  - Needs enforcement for illegal activities.

## 5. Next Steps

1. Continue monitoring traffic issues in your neighbourhood
2. Mail-in or email comments no later than February 13, 2018
3. Additional public input via City on-line Facebook or Neighbourhood Traffic Review webpage no later than May 11, 2018
4. Traffic count data collection, analysis
5. Develop recommendations and prepare draft traffic plan
6. Follow-up public meeting to provide input on draft plan
7. Determine revisions and finalize traffic plan
8. Present traffic plan to City Council for approval

## 6. Question and Answer

- a. Resident: The left turn from Warman Road onto Assiniboine Drive needs a protected arrow. Why aren't there turning arrows all over the City?  
Nathalie: Protected left turn arrows are installed on a warrant basis in the City currently. It would be costly to install them everywhere, therefore it is done on a prioritized basis. We will add this location for review outside of the NTR process.
- b. Resident: Pedestrian countdown timers are very helpful for drivers too. They help you decide if you need to slow down or not. It would be nice to have some at the intersection of 51<sup>st</sup> St & Warman Road.  
Nathalie: Pedestrian countdown timers are intended for pedestrians. They are installed in areas with high pedestrian traffic, like the downtown area.
- c. Resident: Will this review address the Circle Drive to Assiniboine Drive added lane (where vehicles exit Circle Drive westbound to northbound) and issues there?  
Chelsea: The concern is outside of the scope of the neighbourhood traffic review. The comment will be filed and addressed through our review process for major arterials.



- d.** Resident: Why is it called traffic calming when drivers are not calmed?  
People don't even slow down for speed bumps.  
Chelsea: The traffic calming does slow most vehicles.
- e.** Resident: I like the roll-out school zone signs in the middle of the street.
- f.** Resident: Regina uses a yellow strip on the sign post to make school zone signs more visible.
- g.** Resident: Do the speed display boards collect speed data? Speed data should be sent to City Hall to determine if a device is needed.  
Chelsea: Speed display boards are used to educate. Often drivers are unaware that they are speeding. We collect speed data in other ways to determine if devices are needed as well as collect information about time of day, which can be forwarded to the Saskatoon Police for enforcement purposes.  
Staff Sergeant Barbar: If we used data from the speed display boards it would be false data since the boards do tend to reduce speeding.
- h.** Resident: Have speed studies been collected on Assiniboine Drive?  
Chelsea: Yes they have in the past. I'm not sure when the most recent study was.