

# CITY OF SASKATOON

## Briarwood Neighbourhood Traffic Review Minutes

**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2019

**Time:** 7:00 – 9:00 pm

**Location:** Elim Church (419 Slimmon Road)

### Attendees:

| Name                      | Position   |
|---------------------------|--|
| Kathy Dahl                | Facilitator, Great Works Consulting  |
| Mitch Riabko              | Facilitator, Great Works Consulting  |
| Chelsea Lanning           | City of Saskatoon Transportation Engineer<br>Briarwood Neighbourhood Traffic Review<br>Project Manager |
| Nathalie Baudais          | City of Saskatoon Senior Transportation Engineer   |
| Mariniel Flores           | City of Saskatoon Transportation Engineer  |
| David LeBoutillier        | City of Saskatoon Acting Engineering Manager   |
| Councillor Sarina Gersher | Ward 8 City Council Representative   |
| Patrick Barbar            | Staff Sergeant Traffic Unit<br>Saskatoon City Police   |

### Items:

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

#### **Presentation from the Transportation Division**

(Presented by Chelsea Lanning – Transportation Engineer)

See Attachment: Presentation – April 16, 2019

#### **Saskatoon Police Services**

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

#### **Small Group Discussions**

Breakout into small groups to discuss traffic concerns in Briarwood and potential solutions.

### Group 1: Chelsea Lanning

- Briarwood Road & Beechmont Crescent (south leg):
  - There is an existing standard crosswalk that should be upgraded to a zebra crosswalk, or something else to make it more visible.
  - The crosswalk is on a curve which increases the concern that it's not visible.
  
- Layby exit north of Brookmore Crescent:
  - Drivers are turning left out of the layby which is unsafe because the northbound traffic approaches from a curve.
  - Left turns out of the layby are not allowed.
  - Some drivers make a right turn out of the layby then make a U-turn at the nearest intersection. The closest intersection is on a curve making the U-turn unsafe.
  
- Layby exit east of Brookshire Crescent/Bellmont Crescent:
  - Drivers are making a left turn out when the exit wasn't designed that way.
  
- Briargate Road:
  - There is a lot of traffic; it's loud and dusty.
  
- 8<sup>th</sup> Street & Briargate Road:
  - It is difficult to get onto 8<sup>th</sup> Street from Briargate Road.
  - Residents said they were informed that traffic signals would be installed here.
  
- Taylor Street (north side):
  - There are no sidewalks.
  - Would like the connection for both pedestrians and cyclists along Taylor Street.
  - It would really improve safety for cyclists as well.
  
- 8<sup>th</sup> Street:
  - Missing path/sidewalk along both sides of 8<sup>th</sup> Street.
  - Boulevard and ditch are hard to walk along.
  - Connection west along golf course is also needed.
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Street is dangerous for cyclists; we aren't making roads safe for cyclists when our goal is to increase cycling.
  - Eastbound bus stop and operation on 8<sup>th</sup> Street near Boychuk Drive seems insane; they pull into the stop west of the intersection, then have to cross two lanes to continue through on 8<sup>th</sup> Street.

- Briarwood Road (N) & Boychuk Drive:
  - There is an obstruction blocking visibility of the path on the northeast corner.
  - Right turning drivers are looking left and not seeing pedestrians on the right behind the obstruction (utility box).
  - Not satisfied with the crosswalk ahead sign that has been installed on Briarwood Road.
- The group likes wide sidewalks/multi-use paths to keep pedestrians and cyclists safer on busy streets.
- Briarwood Road (in front of Community Centre):
  - Winter snow clearing and parking issues exist in front of the Community Centre.
  - People don't come because they can't park safely. It is a safety concern for users.
  - Windrows being created by snow clearing is the issue.
- Sidewalk condition is degrading at various locations on Banyan Crescent and Brookmore Crescent.
- Crack filling on asphalt paths needs to be done, specifically in Briarwood Park.
- 'Don't feed the animals' signs should be put up in neighborhood parks.
- The Briarwood community would like to be consulted about what happens to Wess Road in the future (after it is closed at 8<sup>th</sup> Street).

Group 2: Nathalie Baudais

- Briarwood Road & Brookdale Crescent (E):
  - There are 3 addresses near this corner including a day care, Hope's Home, and condominium complex.
  - Creates heavy traffic congestion, primarily in the morning and afternoon when kids are picked up/dropped off from the day care and Hope's Home. The children being picked up / dropped off are disabled, so bus loading takes more time. The bus is sometimes stopped for 5 to 7 minutes.
  - Staff is parking on the street reducing the flow of traffic in and out of Brookdale Crescent and impacting the ability for vehicles to safely enter Brookdale Crescent. This can also lead to backups on Briarwood Road when vehicles are waiting to enter Brookdale Crescent.

- Concerned about the safety of other persons at risk as there are a number of children catching school busses at the same corner.
  - Suggest parking restrictions in front of Briar Ridge Condominiums from the corner of Briarwood Road to the entrance gate of the Briar Ridge Condominium site.
  - Concerns with the traffic flow between the intersection and the driveway to Briar Ridge (1110 Brookdale Crescent).
  - Drivers wanting to make a right turn onto Brookdale Crescent from Briarwood Road cannot fit then have to back up onto Briarwood Road.
  - The conditions are worse on waste pick up days since the care home has extra large garbage bins placed on the street.
  - Winter conditions make it worse also.
- Briargate Road & 8<sup>th</sup> Street:
    - It's hard to get onto 8<sup>th</sup> Street, both left and right turns.
    - Eastbound traffic queues up to the intersection when a train is passing.
    - Would like turning lanes onto Wess Road.
    - Trees planted in the boulevard block visibility. These trees are replaced almost every year after being knocked over by vehicles.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Street:
    - Snow is ploughed into the ditch on the north side and cars hit the ditch because they can't see the edge of the road. It creates the illusion that the road is wider than it is.
    - Semi-trailers and gravel trucks are using 8<sup>th</sup> Street here. Why are they using this route? The roads were not designed for this weight.
    - Tractor-trailers should not be parked on residential streets. Can't see the children riding bikes behind them.
- Brighton Boulevard, north of 8<sup>th</sup> Street:
    - The 50 kph sign is placed too close to the intersection.
    - Creates a speed trap when drivers miss the sign.
- Briargate Road:
    - Traffic is speeding in both directions, especially southbound from 8<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Braeside View:
    - Traffic is speeding along entire stretch.
    - Street is being used as a shortcut.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Street:
    - Caraganas need to be maintained.

- Braeburn Court & all other Courts:
  - Landscaping in the islands need maintenance.
- Snow ploughing shouldn't create windrows or plough the snow onto sidewalks. It can create issues with mobility, accessibility and visibility.

### Group 3: Mariniel Flores

- Wess Road:
  - Freeway to Costco.
  - Too much traffic and dust issues.
  - Fully support connecting Taylor Street to Costco. It should reduce shortcutting on 8<sup>th</sup> Street.
  - Traffic from north neighbourhoods are using this road to access Costco
  - This should be a pedestrian/cyclist road, at least from the cemetery to 8<sup>th</sup> Street. There were once many cyclists using Wess Road but it is no longer cyclist-friendly.
  - More and more service vehicles and semis using this road
  - There is a good amount of enforcement on this road.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Street & Briargate Road:

- Difficult to make northbound left turns due to traffic going to Costco.
- Suggest signals or roundabout.

- 8<sup>th</sup> Street & Wess Road:
  - Difficult to turn. Westbound left turn gets queued up.
- Shortcutting:
  - Lots of shortcutting to get to Costco via Boychuk Drive to Briarwood Road to Briargate Road to 8<sup>th</sup> Street to Wess Road to Costco.
- Can't walk to Costco due to lack of sidewalks.
- Zimmerman Road:
  - Needs to be paved.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Street:
  - Want more details on construction including timing of construction and cross-section.
- Briarwood Road between Briargate Road & Brookmore View:
  - Parking on both sides makes it too narrow especially with drivers opening their car doors on the same side as the travel lane.

- Create an off-street parking lot.
  - Suggest removing parking.
  - Sightline issues exist.
  - Suggest hauling away snow since it pushes cars out towards travel lanes.
- Briarvale Road & Briarwood Road:
  - Suggest a two-way stop instead of four-way stop or a mini-roundabout.
- Why wasn't the infrastructure provided before Costco/strip mall was constructed?
- Taylor Street & Briarvale Road:
  - Suggest a roundabout instead of a 4-way stop so traffic doesn't have to stop.
- Bayview Crescent (N/S) & Briargate Road:
  - Standard crosswalk is needed at one of the intersections.
- Briarwood Road & Beechmont Crescent:
  - Upgrade to zebra crosswalk.
- Brookshire Crescent & Briarwood Road:
  - Zebra crosswalk wanted here.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Street (south side):
  - Would like a path (crusher dust, asphalt, or concrete) from McKercher Drive to Briargate Road.
- Briarwood Road near the lake and park:
  - Suggest speed display board.
- Briarwood Road between Brookdale Crescent & Beechmont Crescent:
  - Would like speed measurements done.
- Briarwood Road west of Briargate Road:
  - Snow is stored here which blocks pedestrian access.
- Briarwood Road:
  - Mid-block crossing south of Beechmont Crescent (S) where the park pathways intersect with Briarwood Road
- Need more parking for the parks.

- Taylor Street extension:
  - What is the timeline for completion?
  - Want it to be finished ahead of schedule.
  - Make it more of a priority.

### **Next Steps**

1. Continue monitoring traffic issues in your neighbourhood
2. Mail-in or email comments no later than May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019
3. Additional public input via Engage Page no later than May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019
4. Traffic counts 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 Standing Policy Committee on Transportation

### **Question and Answer**

1. Question: What is the timing of the 8<sup>th</sup> Street improvements and what does the cross-section look like?

Chelsea Lanning: Work for 8<sup>th</sup> Street will progress from McOrmond Drive towards Boychuk Drive. Utility work will happen first, followed by roadway work. All of the work is expected to be completed within the next 5 to 10 years; however, is dependent on the Brighton development. The roadway design is currently being finalized, and details about the design will be released as it is approved. It will be widened and will include traffic signals at 8<sup>th</sup> Street & Briargate Road.

2. Question: What is the timing of the Taylor Street construction?

Chelsea Lanning: Work is planned in two phases. Over the next two summers, Phase 1 will be completed (as a two-lane road). The plan is to have the first two lanes complete by fall 2020.

3. Question: How long will it take for the grade separation at the railway tracks to be built?

Chelsea Lanning: Construction of the grade separation is included in the 5 to 10 year timeline for the 8<sup>th</sup> Street improvements.

4. Question: Will sidewalks be included in the Taylor Street construction?

Chelsea Lanning: Sidewalks are planned along Taylor Street, however construction timing is unclear at this time.

5. Question: Will Wess Road be closed off after Taylor Street is constructed?

Chelsea Lanning: The closure of Wess Road is linked to the construction of the rail grade separation at 8<sup>th</sup> Street, not the Taylor Street construction.