

Dangerous Goods Route Around the Core of Lloydminster

ISSUE:

Currently there is no bylaw or enforcement mechanism in place to ensure that the large truck traffic, and particularly the trucks hauling dangerous goods, are prohibited from driving in the core of the city. This causes serious safety concerns. The large trucks also slow down and back up traffic, especially in the downtown core.

BACKGROUND:

Many of the trucks and tanks moving through our city core on Highway 16 and 17 are carrying goods and substances that could endanger the lives and wellbeing of our Lloydminster citizens. Businesses in the downtown business improvement district have also voiced their concerns about the heavy truck traffic moving through downtown on Highway 17.

As per the Governance and Priority Committee meeting on June 19th, 2017, the Engineering Services department brought the issue forward of a truck and dangerous goods route, stating the following:

“With the current version of the Traffic and Transportation Systems bylaws, specific roads are designated as Truck Routes. The designation of specific Dangerous Goods Routes is not referred to in any bylaws.

The establishment of designated Truck and Dangerous Goods Routes will help direct truck traffic through and around the City. This ensures that these vehicles have the least impacts to residential areas and ensure the movement of dangerous goods only follows routes that minimize potential impact with the citizens of Lloydminster.”¹

As per the documents included in the Governance and Priority Committee meeting package, the existing dangerous goods route is highway 16 and 17, a highly populated, high traffic, business corridor. Included in the meeting package is a recommended dangerous goods route diverting traffic from the core of our City. The Governance and Priority Committee recommended a potential Your Voice Night and further community engagement on this matter.

Alberta Transportation has provided useful information on guidelines for the establishment of dangerous goods routes in Alberta municipalities:

<https://www.transportation.alberta.ca/Content/docType272/Production/dgroutes.pdf>

RECOMMENDATION:

The Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce strongly recommends that the City of Lloydminster:

- 1) Appoint a committee to assess Lloydminster’s needs in term of dangerous goods route. This committee should include stakeholders such as the fire department, RCMP, by-law enforcement, local carriers, local merchants and other community stakeholders.
- 2) Update bylaw and put into place an enforcement plan, with penalties, that restricts vehicle traffic hauling dangerous goods from travelling in the city core except for those trucks who are delivering goods to local businesses.
- 3) Put in place the infrastructure necessary to move the heavy truck traffic on and off Highway 16 and 17 at the designated truck route exits and entrances. This may include turn lanes and traffic lights.
- 4) Immediately designate a dangerous goods route with clearly marked signage so that truck traffic is alerted and aware of their options.

¹ City of Lloydminster. Governance and Priorities Committee Agenda, Monday, June 19, 2017. Retrieved from: <http://www.lloydminster.ca/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/1734>