

Wetaskiwin City Council Pursues Safety Improvements at Highway 13 and Highway 814 Intersection

August 21, 2019

(Wetaskiwin, Alberta) – Wetaskiwin City Council chose a preferred safety improvement plan for the Highway 13 and Highway 814 (47 Street) intersection at their regular August 19, 2019 Council meeting. Permission to implement the improvements is still required from Alberta Transportation for this intersection.

Four improvement options were considered in the [intersection analysis document](#) prepared by McElhanney Ltd., including reducing the posted speed limit, modified lane configurations, signalization, and a potential roundabout. Several quantitative and qualitative inputs were used to measure the effectiveness of each intersection design. The option approved by City Council consists of reducing the posted speed limit to 60 km/hour, concrete islands to separate right-turning lanes from through traffic, and the addition of high visibility thermoplastic inlaid line markings once the intersection has been milled and paved.

“Working with Alberta Transportation to accomplish the intersection improvements as soon as possible is paramount,” said Mayor Tyler Gandam. “I hope that we hear back from the Minister of Transportation quickly on this safety initiative.”

The total anticipated cost for the improvements is \$427,000. The City of Wetaskiwin will proceed with tendering the intersection improvements and lowering the posted speed limit once approval to do so is received from Alberta Transportation and a subsequent motion for funding is approved by City Council.

The City is still pursuing cost sharing with the County of Wetaskiwin and the Province of Alberta.

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For more information please contact:

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Backgrounder

- Earlier this spring, Wetaskiwin City Council allocated \$36,000 from the budget for a detailed design of the Highway 814 and Highway 13 intersection, including feasible improvement options.
- Elected officials and senior management from both the City of Wetaskiwin and the County of Wetaskiwin met with Honourable Rick Wilson, MLA of Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin/Minister of Indigenous Affairs on July 12 to discuss an action plan.
- Community Peace Officers and RCMP members have increased their patrols of the area to ensure that the speed limit and proper lane movements are respected.
- The intersection analysis report—conducted by McElhanney Ltd.—was presented to Wetaskiwin City Council at their regular August 19, 2019 meeting. [Four feasible improvement options were included in the report](#). City Council preferred Option 3 (see below) and has directed Administration to continue negotiating cost sharing with the Province of Alberta and County of Wetaskiwin using this option.

