



CITY OF  
FORT SASKATCHEWAN

**Request for Decision  
Regular Council Meeting\_Dec13\_2022**

**Bylaw C26-22 – Amending Traffic Bylaw C17-22**

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**Motion:**

1. That Council give second reading to Bylaw C26-22, which amends Traffic Bylaw C17-22.
2. That Council give third reading to Bylaw C26-22, which amends Traffic Bylaw C17-22.

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the updated Bylaw C26-22, which amends Traffic Bylaw C17-22, and to request second and third reading of the Bylaw.

**Background:**

The Traffic Bylaw regulates the various forms of traffic movement through the City, such as parking, speeds, recreational vehicles and disturbing noise. On October 11, 2022, Traffic Bylaw C26-22 received first reading at the regular Council meeting.

The first amendment is to correct an omission in the Fine Schedule. The second amendment, specific to vehicle noise is proposed for Council's consideration. It includes a recommended decibel (dBA) level for a vehicle while at idle and while at a speed greater than idling, 92dBA and 96dBA respectively, as well as a penalty of \$250 and \$500 for Failing to Comply with Sound Meter test.

Administration was asked to look at on-street parking, recreational vehicle and trailer parking. Residential street parking is often an area where we see complaints from our residents. When it comes to on-street parking we utilize the *Traffic Safety Act* Section 76 to ensure that inoperable vehicles are not being parked or abandon on our roadways. The intent of this is to limit parking for 72 hours then the vehicle has to be moved. Chalking the tire allows the Officer to ensure the vehicle did move. Council directed Administration to look at changing this to ensure vehicles move more than a few inches.

**Summary Analysis:**

Below is a summary of the amendments to the Traffic Bylaw. We have proposed three options for dealing with Abandoned Vehicles and on-street parking.

**Housekeeping Amendment – Section 29**

The first amendment is to Schedule "A" Fines and Penalties adding the fine amount for Section 29(b). This fine amount was left out when the Bylaw was updated and is consistent with the other fines within this Bylaw of \$250 for the first offence for having a trailer slide out open towards the sidewalk.

### **Vehicle Noise Amendment – Section 8**

The second amendment is to add provisions for vehicle noise. This change will encompass a new definition of “Disturbing Noises” and changes to Section 8 of the Bylaw. This will add decibel readings for a vehicle while at idle and while at a greater speed than idling. These readings are 92dBA and 96dBA respectively as well as a penalty of \$250 for non-compliance.

### **Abandoned Vehicle Amendment – Section 1.1**

Administration has come up with three options to address abandoned vehicles and on-street parking. Council wanted Municipal Enforcement to prevent people from just rolling ahead slightly and continuing to park in the same location.

#### **Option 1 – Recommended Option**

Section 1.1 Abandoned Vehicles

- a) No Person shall Park a Vehicle at a single location on a Highway (or in close proximity to that single location) for a period exceeding 72 consecutive hours.

Rationale: This option will provide Officers with a provision that will ensure the vehicle is moved more than a few inches. It has stronger wording to accomplish moving the vehicle. It will not have them moving entirely off the street for a period of time.

#### **Option 2**

Section 1.1 Abandoned Vehicles

- a) No Person shall Park a Vehicle at a single location on a Highway for a period exceeding 72 consecutive hours and the vehicle must be removed for a period of 24 hours

Rationale: The intent of adding this section would restrict parking on the street to 72 hours and then that vehicle can't be parked back on the street for a period of 24 hours. This option will significantly restrict parking in areas that already have parking issues. This option will extend the time it takes for Officers to complete this file with added checks to ensure the vehicle has been removed.

#### **Option 3 – Stay with current legislation**

Section 76 Abandoned Vehicles *Traffic Safety Act*

(2) A vehicle that is

1. Left standing on a highway for more than 72 consecutive hours, unless otherwise provided for in a bylaw in the case of a highway under the direction, control and management of the council of a municipality,

Rationale: This option has worked well for its intent to ensure vehicles are not abandoned or left inoperable on the street.

### **Recreation Vehicles / Trailers – Section 29**

Trailers have been added to this section to treat them the same as a recreational vehicle. We have also increased the time to park on the street from 24 hours to 48 hours. This time frame will give residents adequate time to load and unload the trailer or recreational vehicle. We have added the Recreational Vehicle or Trailer must be removed for a period of 48 hours off the street.

### **Financial Implications:**

If adopted, this Bylaw and the new fines associated to it will help to increase compliance and there is a revenue component for the Municipal Enforcement Services. A sound level meter will be

purchased at a cost of approximately \$4,000 each with an ongoing yearly cost to calibrate the instrument. These costs will be covered in our current operating budget.

**Internal/External Impacts:**

This new Bylaw will require Municipal Enforcement and RCMP Officers to be trained on the use of Sound Level Meters. There will also be a period of public education and opportunities for motorists to have their sound level checked on their vehicles by our Officers. This will be considered as an educational aspect of changing the bylaw and no tickets will be issued during these events. Protective Services will work with Corporate Communications on public awareness of the new Traffic Bylaw.

**Diversity Impacts:**

The Traffic Bylaw was looked at from a Diversity and Inclusion Lens and wording changed to reflect the values of the City of Fort Saskatchewan to be inclusive. Multiple avenues of communication will be used to ensure we meet the diverse needs of the community.

**Risk Analysis:**

We are now seeing the provision of decibel readings added to bylaws across the province and these changes are proving to be successful. Keeping an eye on the legal challenges that we have will be one measure of our Bylaw's success.

If Council were not to approve this amendment for vehicle noise, Officers will continue to utilize the *Traffic Safety Act* as our tool for addressing noise and *Vehicle Equipment Regulations*.

**Plans/Standards/Legislation:**

The Traffic Bylaw aligns with the City's Vision Zero goal and to have a safe and livable community.

**City's Strategic Plan:**

- Goal - Welcoming, Compassionate and Active Community (support diverse community needs to create a complete community where everyone, regardless of circumstances is able to experience all the City has to offer).
- Goal - Operational Excellence and Continuous Improvement (continuous improvement, constantly looking for ways to improve our services through innovative practices, technology, collaboration, and consultation).

**Alternatives:**

These alternatives are set out for wording for Abandoned Vehicles and street parking

1. **Recommended Option:** "No Person shall Park a Vehicle at a single location on a Highway (or in close proximity to that single location) for a period exceeding 72 consecutive hours."

**Motion:** *That Bylaw C17-22 be amended to add the following Section 1.1 – Abandoned Vehicles "No Person shall Park a Vehicle at a single location on a Highway (or in close proximity to that single location) for a period exceeding 72 consecutive hours."*

2. “No Person shall Park a Vehicle at a single location on a Highway for a period exceeding 72 consecutive hours and the vehicle must be removed for a period of 24 hours.”

**Motion:** *That Bylaw C17-22 be amended to add the following Section 1.1 – Abandoned Vehicles* “No Person shall Park a Vehicle at a single location on a Highway for a period exceeding 72 consecutive hours and the vehicle must be removed for a period of 24 hours.”

3. Stay with current legislation Section 76 *Traffic Safety Act*. “A vehicle that is Left standing on a highway for more than 72 consecutive hours, unless otherwise provided for in a bylaw in the case of a highway under the direction, control and management of the council of a municipality,”

**Administrative Recommendation:**

Administration recommends that Council give second and third reading to Bylaw C26-22 – Amending Traffic Bylaw C17-22. Once adopted the Traffic Bylaw C17-22 will be amended.

**Attachments:**

1. Appendix A – Amended Traffic Bylaw C26-22
2. Appendix B – Traffic Bylaw C17-22

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Approved by:	Heather Cowie General Manager, Community & Protective Services	Date: December 2, 2022
Approved by:	Troy Fleming City Manager	Date: December 2, 2022