

Neighbourhood Speed Limits Update Report

Feedback from the Calgary Police Service

The Calgary Police Service was engaged as a key stakeholder and contributed information and guidance at the project team and advisory level.

After reviewing the draft report, CPS provided the following written statement summarizing their key concerns:

The Calgary Police Service (CPS) was consulted as a key stakeholder in traffic safety in the City of Calgary. The CPS recognizes that speed reduction is an important factor in collision reduction efforts and the related objectives of road safety and injury prevention / mitigation. As an organization, the CPS philosophically supports initiatives that promote traffic safety and reduces fatal and serious injury collisions. An important part of the CPS mandate is to promote traffic safety and to conduct enforcement and education aimed at achieving driver compliance. In order to achieve this, the CPS emphasized the importance of traffic calming measures that would be required in conjunction with the lowered speed limits. The CPS also provided feedback outlining the challenges associated with using a municipal bylaw to set a local speed limit as opposed to directly amending the Traffic Safety Act (TSA) to achieve greater province-wide consistency, road safety, and set notice to drivers. The CPS cannot support the use of a by-law to conduct speed enforcement if it fails to reference the TSA and engage the current legal process. Given the proposed plan regarding signage, the CPS provided feedback that fair notice to Alberta drivers is optimal when speed signs that conflict with the TSA are posted at each enforcement location. Failing to ensure fair notice could lead to challenges with prosecution of offences. The CPS supports in principle efforts aimed at increasing public safety however the CPS recognizes the clarity of role requirement for police agencies to remain neutral in these decisions and to enforce the law rather than make it.

The project team has confirmed that speeding enforcement will continue to be through TSA citation, relying on the current legal process and with no changes to ticket or demerit amounts per Provincial regulation.