

Council Corner

Province owns Tofield's High Load Corridor

Many residents of Tofield, if not all, are familiar with Secondary Highway 834. The secondary Highway, often referred to as the High Load Corridor, extends through a great portion of Tofield. One such area of attention in this section of road runs adjacent to highway commercial businesses such as Subway and Esso.

Mayor and Council feel it important to raise the awareness of not only the aforementioned area, but all of 834 that would run through town limits. The rationale behind this awareness ties directly to maintenance. Although portions of 834 are within the corporate limits of Tofield, this road is neither owned, nor maintained by the Town. At current, this road belongs to Alberta Transportation and is maintained by their contracted operator. This maintenance sees such things as snow removal and sanding, pot hole patching and street sweeping.

The former Provincial Government had released a plan to provide a ring road around Tofield, to eliminate the High Load corridor through town limits, however was projecting completion at 2020 or 2021. We have seen necessary construction for this project taking

place at the corner of Highway 626 and Highway 14, however, still remain unsure of a total completion date. As we are now operating under the leadership of a new Provincial Government, the previous completion dates may be very fluid, and may also take a lesser priority in the Governments overall provincial projection.

As discussed previously in this edition of Council Corner, all maintenance along this road lies within the hands of the Province. Therefore, the Town is not able, nor permitted to perform maintenance along any stretch of this road. This without question poses its own positives and negatives, and often provides confusion amongst our residents as to why action is not taken sooner along this passage way.

One such area of concern is in the way of development, specific to highway commercial expansion. There has been movement on a highway com-

mercial development which will inevitably bring a higher volume of traffic, as well as larger vehicles requiring short term parking, possibly along roadside. Mayor and Council see the necessity of this parking to encourage business, enable traffic flow and to accommodate for public safety. The issue becomes, this is not our road at current to maintain or to influence. Mayor and Council have approached Alberta Transportation on the possibilities of expanding this area, and our voice has been heard. Unfortunately at this time, this is not within the scope of their plans either short or long term. The only possibility would be if, in the future this road is turned over to the Town; there could be opportunity to pursue the project. Until that time, the Town can only continue to lobby the Government to action this request.

A further piece of note, from a geographic perspective would be,



the service road is maintained by Alberta Transportation only to the corner of the Tempo Gas Station. All roadway running east falls under the Town's direction and maintenance. Due to high volumes of business traffic the Town is providing considerable and serious thought to providing a road widening on the South side to accommodate for parking. Once again, this area falls under our scope of power, and we do have the authority to provide alterations, upgrades and updates.

Mayor and Council appreciate feedback they have received in consideration of 834, however, felt it important to provide a descriptor as to the current arrangement for maintenance, and how this may be perceived in regards to development.

Respectfully submitted,
Mayor and Council

Honour the past...

Build the Future

The Town of
Tofield