

September 16, 2016

Report To: Mayor and Council

From: Travis Rob, Manager of Operations and Facilities

RE: Deputation by Mr. W. Lundstrom – Use and Care of Pedestrians and Bicyclists

At the September 12, 2016 meeting of Council Mr. Lundstrom made a presentation regarding the interaction of pedestrians and cyclists on the sidewalks in Fort Frances, particularly within the Downtown Core. Mr. Lundstrom discussed the laws and by-laws surrounding the use of sidewalks by cyclists and requested that the by-laws be reviewed and strengthened. Mr. Lundstrom also brought forward the signs on the waterfront walking path that say 'Walking Path Only' thereby directing cyclists onto the bicycle path.

I spoke with members of the By-Law Enforcement department about the Traffic Control By-Law and cyclists on sidewalks. Section 5.3 Driving on Sidewalks, Curb or Boulevard states, in part, that no person shall drive a bicycle within any sidewalk area or on a curb. However the real guidelines for cyclists comes under the Highway Traffic Act. This act outlines the 'rules of the road' for all vehicles including cyclists. This act is enforced by the Ontario Provincial Police. The Municipal By-Law Enforcement officers are not permitted to stop vehicles therefore stronger wording in the traffic control by-law will not make a change to the ability of the municipality to enforce what is currently in place. Under the current OPP Service Agreement, the traffic control by-law is currently enforced by the OPP as well as The Highway traffic act. Furthermore the OPP have periodic 'Bicycle Rodeo' events where they educate youth on the rules surrounding the safe operation of Bicycles which could be a tool to alleviate this issue.


The Signs on the water front directing cyclists to the bicycle path are affixed to the walkway lighting poles. Signs of this type, stating 'No Bicycles on Sidewalk' could be purchased for the downtown core and placed on the street lighting poles. The cost of the signs is approximately \$35.00 per sign and to provide suitable coverage to the 100, 200 and 300 blocks of Scott Street, 16 would have to be purchased at a total cost of \$560.00 plus brackets and bands for installation. The issue with taking this approach in the Downtown core is that we do not have a bicycle path to direct cyclists to. This would increase the interaction of cyclists and vehicular traffic, coupled with the fact that Scott Street is a truck route.

In 2011 the Town of Fort Frances in partnership with the Northwestern Health unit underwent a study and subsequent plan looking at the active transportation network and future opportunities for improvement within the Town of Fort Frances. The recommendations were widely varying from new sidewalks and off road bike paths to on road bike lanes. The major stumbling block that impacted the installation of on road bike lanes was the reality that, under the Highway Traffic Act, one lane would have to be constructed in each direction. This coupled with the width of our existing roadways meant that one of the parking lanes would have to be

abandoned to shift the traffic to accommodate the two bike lanes. Given the parking issues in the Downtown core currently, the ability to construct a bike path in this area is not realistic.

Given the ability of the OPP to stop a bicycle, the current regulations and the OPP's frequent public engagement and information sessions, the current provisions within the Traffic Control By-Law, and the public safety issues with forcing cyclists onto the roadway in the downtown core; It is the recommendation of the Operations and Facilities Executive Committee to refer the request from Mr. Wayne Lundstrom to the Police Services Board for further consideration. And further to not revisit the traffic control by-law provisions surrounding cyclists, and further, not install signage within the Downtown core at this time.

Respectively Submitted

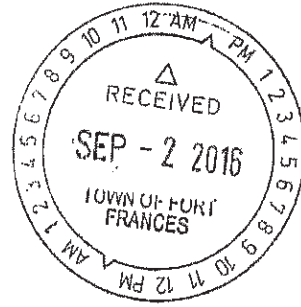
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Travis Rob', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Travis Rob, EIT
Manager of Operations & Facilities

2016SeptBicycleDeputation

Council Approval of this report will agree with the recommendation of the Operations and Facilities Executive Committee to refer the request from Mr. Wayne Lundstrom to the Police Services Board for further consideration. And further to not revisit the traffic control by-law provisions surrounding cyclists, and further, not install signage within the Downtown core at this time.

September 2 2016



TOWN OF FORT FRANCES

COUNCIL BOARD

CIVIC CENTRE

Dear Council members

I Wayne Lundstrom request to be put on your Council meeting agenda for September 12 meeting.

This is regards to the use and care of predestines & bicyclists.

In the down town core it has become danger to seniors as well as the handicapped

Please may I opportunity to my view point as well as an offer, in how we as the town & public solve this serious issue.

Thank you

Yours Truly

Wayne Lundstrom (res.)

(807) 276 5223