

REQUEST TO: RE-LOCATE THE TRUCK ROUTE BACK TO SCOTT STEET – AND OFF FRONT STREET.
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To: Fort Frances Mayor and Council, et al.

Date: June 3, 2021

WE ASK THAT THE CURRENT TRUCK ROUTE BE REVIEWED AND BE CHANGED FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

We understand that the current route, via Front St., was initiated in 1979, following requests by downtown businesses many years ago to remove heavy truck traffic from Scott St. due to the vibration damages to their delicate china and glass products on sale. We would like to comment currently that:

1. Many, if not all, of those businesses are no longer in business today (ie: Brockies and Johnson's Jewellers). It appears that many retail downtown businesses have been replaced with offices, etc.
2. The specific nature of those businesses many years ago were known as 'fine china and glass', geared towards the tourist market and have slowly vanished as the tourist market has changed.
3. With the closure and demolition of the paper mill, their heavy traffic has been 100% eliminated from Scott St. and the Front Street entrance into the mill site.
4. The future use of the paper mill site, by title ownership restriction, specifically excludes mill uses so that mill future heavy traffic on Front St. should not happen or be very limited.
5. Front St. was never originally built to heavy traffic standards, and additional damage to this street is occurring at a faster pace than with normal traffic. There are no known plans to rebuild Front St. to heavy traffic standards.
6. Heavy traffic standards on non-connecting link roadways, if ever done, is done at 100% cost to the local taxpayers.
7. Points 5 & 6 also applies to Victoria Ave., Nelson St., Veterans Ave. (probably), Church St., Mowat Ave. and Second St. E.

8. Scott St., as a connecting link roadway, was built and re-built to heavy traffic standards, and receives subsidized funding of at least 80% from the province.
9. We understand that local truckers, in the past, protested their being forced off Scott St. to use the Front St. truck route decision.
10. Certain truckers, since 1979, and to this date, choose to use Scott Street as their route and not use Front Street because it always was and is legal to do so and it is a more direct route.
11. Having studied the plans for potential development of the “Shevlin Woodyard” and the implementation of a traffic circle, we believe re-routing of heavy truck traffic would be required.
12. All heavy trucks going through Fort Frances, easterly and westerly, and USA south bound, being the bulk of the heavy traffic, could be traversing a more direct and convenient route for them.
13. USA incoming trucking, east or west bound, can be minimally impacted, if at all, and could be accommodated by either of these alternatives:
 1. USA East bound traffic continue straight on Church, Left on Victoria Ave and right on Scott Street (Provincial Highway 11). We realize these corners may need to be rounded, with the possibility of limiting on-street parking.
 2. USA bound traffic approaching from the east would turn left on Scott St to Victoria Avenue and right onto Church with a direct run to the international border crossing.
 3. USA west bound traffic would continue as is.

We believe both Church Street and Victoria Avenue in this area have sufficient width to accommodate the truck traffic. Consideration for possible left turning light onto Victoria Ave. could be given.

Consideration of these routes would keep some of the truck traffic currently using Front, off the 100, 200 and 300 blocks of Scott Street to aid with retail businesses still on those blocks.

14. There are many residents living along Front St. who are in support of this request. We are also aware that a number of residents of the Riverwalk Condos (which include 32 units) are in favour, as well as all residents of the

Riverfront Condos (7 units) and the 5 Townhome units. With current Covid restrictions other “door to door” canvassing was not possible, and we felt an on-line presence was not appropriate at this time. Many of these new residential developments were not in place when this original by-law was put in place.

15. La Verendrye General Hospital, (Riverside Health Care Facilities) and Non-Profit Supportive Housing by their letter attached, are in support of this request.
16. With the future plans for the “wood yard” and encouragement of private developers to build in this area, the heavy truck traffic is a detriment to this level of development (both residential and commercial).
17. There are many safety concerns – with no traffic lights or formal crosswalks, heavy truck traffic with their limited stopping ability is dangerous with the increase in pedestrian traffic, kids playing or biking along the waterfront, enhanced marina traffic with boats loading and reloading, etc. over the past number of years. It is felt that circumstances have changed a great deal since the Town first passed a by-law to implement this truck route. We are asking that this issue be reviewed with the considerations noted in this document.

Thank you for all you do for the residents of the Town of Fort Frances. We look forward to your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Grace Cridland, President

Jan Beazley, Secretary

On behalf of RRSCC #4 – Riverfront Condominiums

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