

October 1st, 2015

Report To: Mayor & Council

From: Doug Brown, Manager Operations & Facilities

**SUBJECT: Intersection of Portage Avenue/First Street, East Intersection –  
Review of Alleged Hazardous Driving Conditions**

The letter dated April 22, 2015 from Donna McKelvie was referred to the Operations & Facilities Executive Committee for a recommendation with input from the Traffic Safety Committee at the May 11, 2015 Council meeting. See attached copy of the letter.

Please find attached the minutes of the Traffic Safety Committee meeting held on September 23, 2015. The Traffic Safety committee is recommending that the northern most parking spot (1) from the First Street intersection on the east side of Portage Avenue ( North-East quadrant) be eliminated in order to improve sightlines for westbound motorists on First Street, East when crossing or turning onto Portage Avenue.

It is difficult to support this recommendation due to the fact that the most recent available collision/accident doesn't support that this intersection is more hazardous than any of the surrounding intersections and that there are several intersections throughout the community where similar sightlines and on-street parking conditions exist.

It is recommended by the Operations & Facilities Executive Committee that the letter dated April 22, 2015 from Donna McKelvie was reviewed and that at this time no adjustment will be made to the existing on-street parking and traffic control devices near/or at the intersection of Portage Avenue and First, East.

Respectfully submitted,  
Operations & Facilities Division



Doug Brown, P. Eng.  
Manager Operations & Facilities

<p><b>Council approval of this report will</b> ensure that the letter dated April 22, 2015 from Donna McKelvie was reviewed and that at this time no adjustment will be made to the existing on street parking and traffic control devices near/or at the intersection of Portage Avenue and First Street, East.</p>
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## **TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Date: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 – 12:00 noon

Place: 900 Wright Avenue – Public Works Building

1. **Roll Call:**

Committee Members: Rick Wiedenhoeft and Milt Strachan

Guests: Donna McKelvie

2. **Non Agenda Items:**

None

3. **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests and General Nature Thereof:**

None

4. **Minutes of Previous Meetings:**

None – First meeting of new committee

5. **Unfinished Business:**

None

6. **New Business:**

- a) Request from Donna McKelvie to review the Safety of Traffic Flow through the intersection at First Street East and Portage Avenue.

The committee members and guest looked at collision data at the intersection in question and compared to five intersections in the area. That data shows that this intersection had fewer collisions than four of the other five in the area and one more than the intersection at Mowat Avenue and First Street. Both Committee members do agree that this intersection at Portage Avenue and First Street can be hard to see oncoming vehicles at while trying to get from First Street across or onto Portage Avenue.

Everybody agreed that having another controlled intersection with lights or four way stop signs was not practical in this case.

Pros and Cons of removing the northernmost parking spot on the East side of the 500 block of Portage Avenue were discussed. The only Con was that there would be one less parking spot for use in that area.

The Pros were that it would definitely improve the sight lines to see traffic from the south at this intersection. It was also thought that if this parking spot were removed that it may encourage the people in the apartment block at 301 First Street to use the area behind the building for parking as getting in and out of that area would also have improved sight lines. The cost of this improvement would be very minimal as the curb would be painted yellow and a sign would be removed. This would also require a change in the parking by-law for this area.

The Traffic Safety Committee recommends that the northernmost parking spot on the east side of the 500 Block of Portage Avenue be removed.

7. **Date of Next Meeting:**

A meeting will be scheduled when required.

8. **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.



Milt Strachan,  
Traffic Safety Committee